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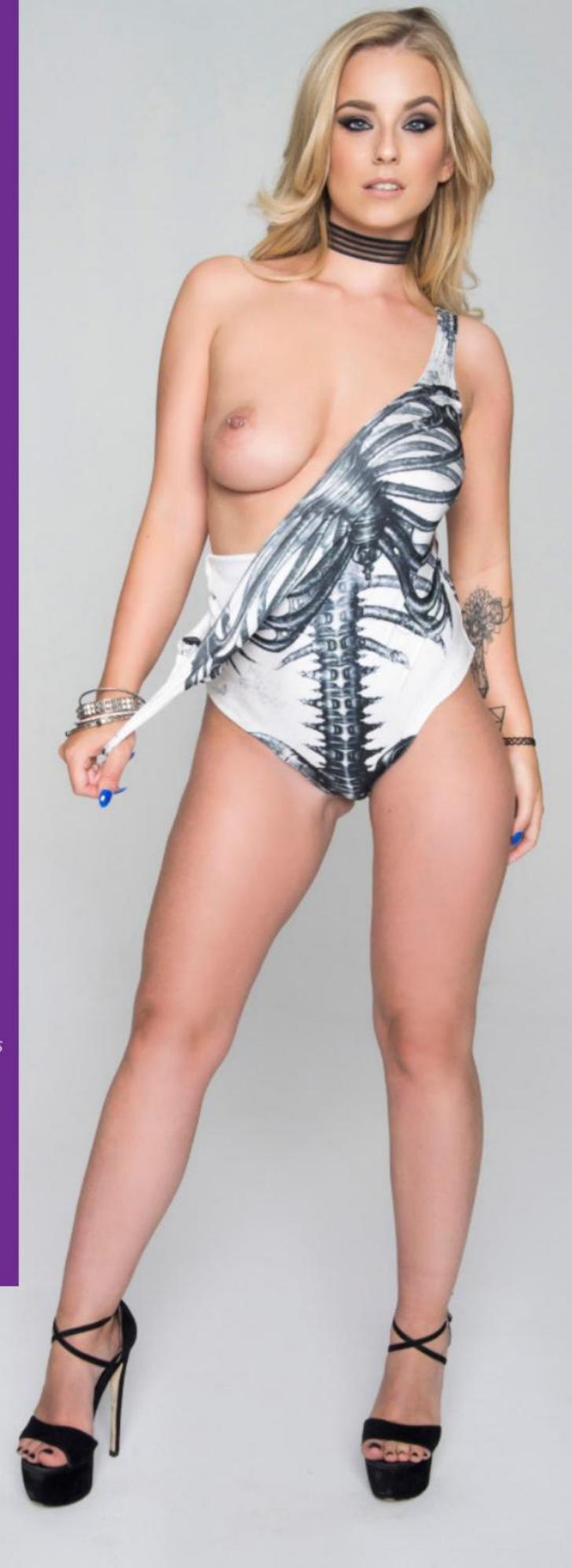
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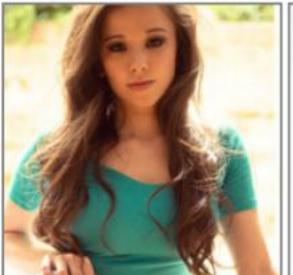
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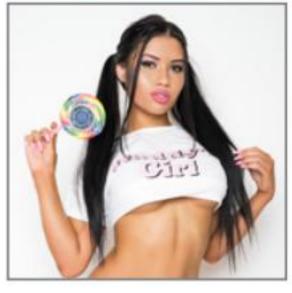


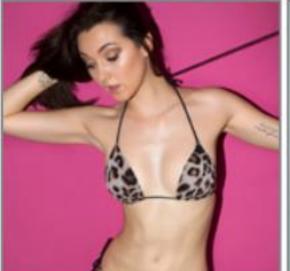


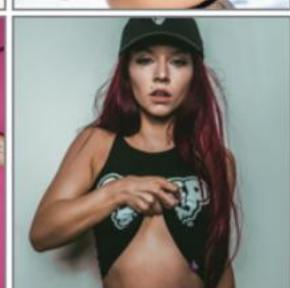


















**So Belle, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite?** Of course, I always have a great time with #TeamElite!

You live in the North - does this mean you are a wildling or white walker? Although I'm a wildling (wild at heart) I see myself as The Mother of Dragons!

If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? I'm desperate to travel through Romania and walk in the footsteps of Vlad the Impaler!

You are a bit of a queen with gothic things... what's your favourite piece? Currently, my favourite item is my latex o-ring garter by Mico Couture Latex! It combines fashion and fetish perfectly, it suits any outfit and appeases my need for rubber.

What's your favourite body part? Eyes. Always the eyes. They're the window to the soul and can tell you everything you need to know in an instant.

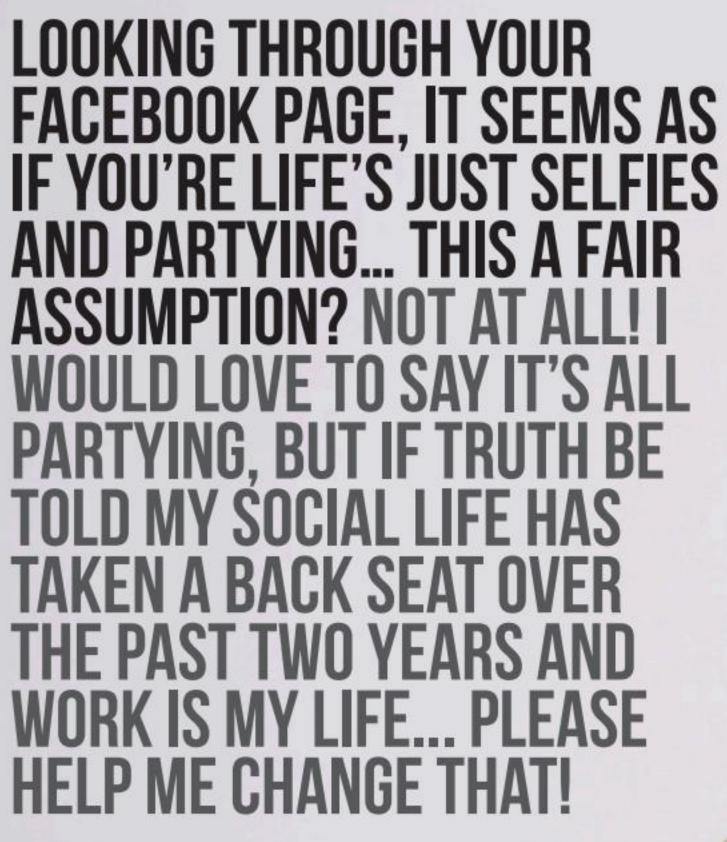
Ok standard interview question here... you are allowed to have dinner with 3 people... one has to be dead, one has to be alive and one has to be someone you want to exist but doesn't... who d you invite? That's easy! I'd invite Alan Rickman so that we could discuss theatre and so that I could hear his voice again. Tom Hardy so that I could gaze into his eyes all evening and Dracula! Dracula speaks to my vampire obsession and I'd love nothing more than to explore the night with such a romantic creature.











Photographer: ATOM Creative













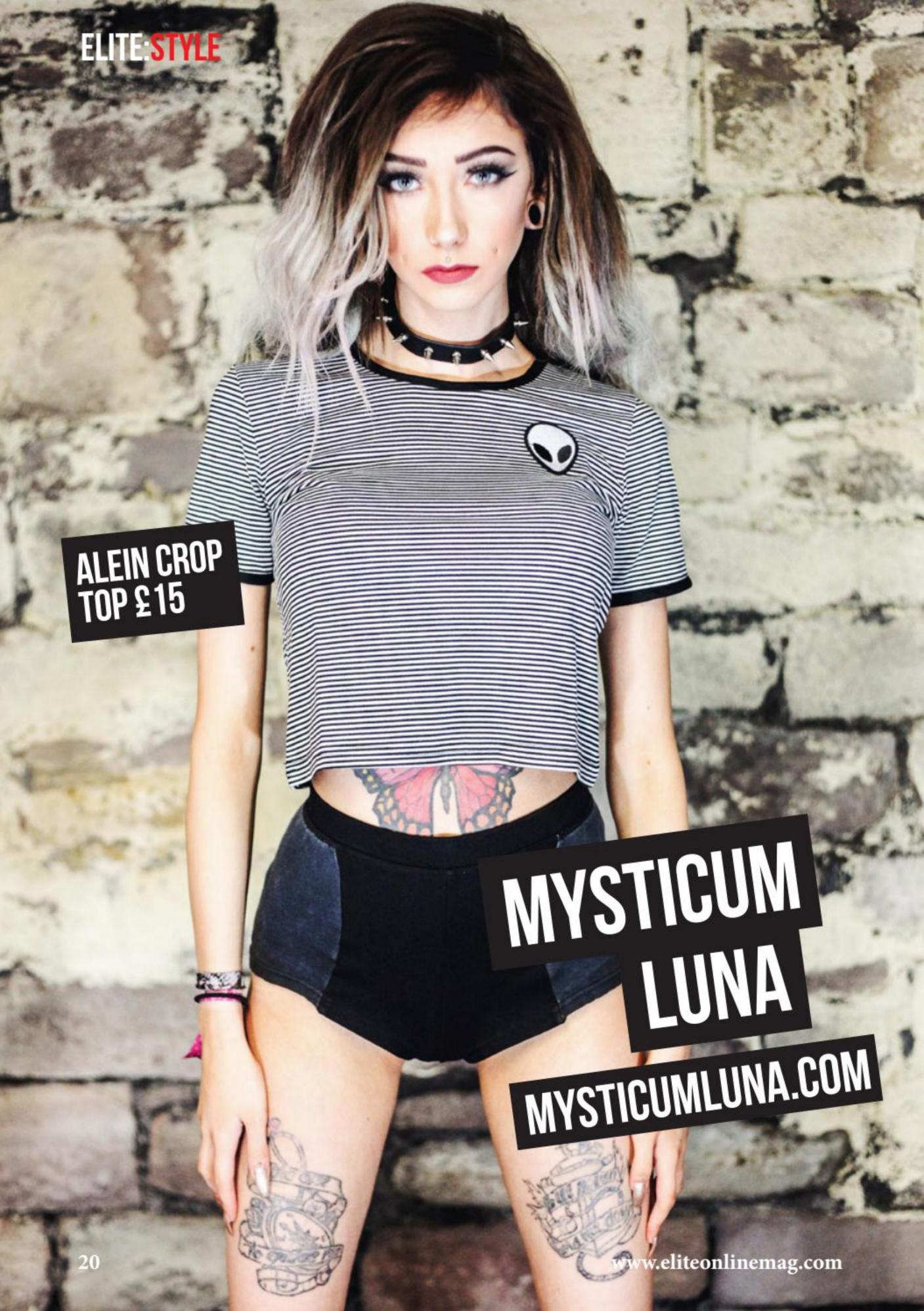
## INTO ABSENCE CLOTHING



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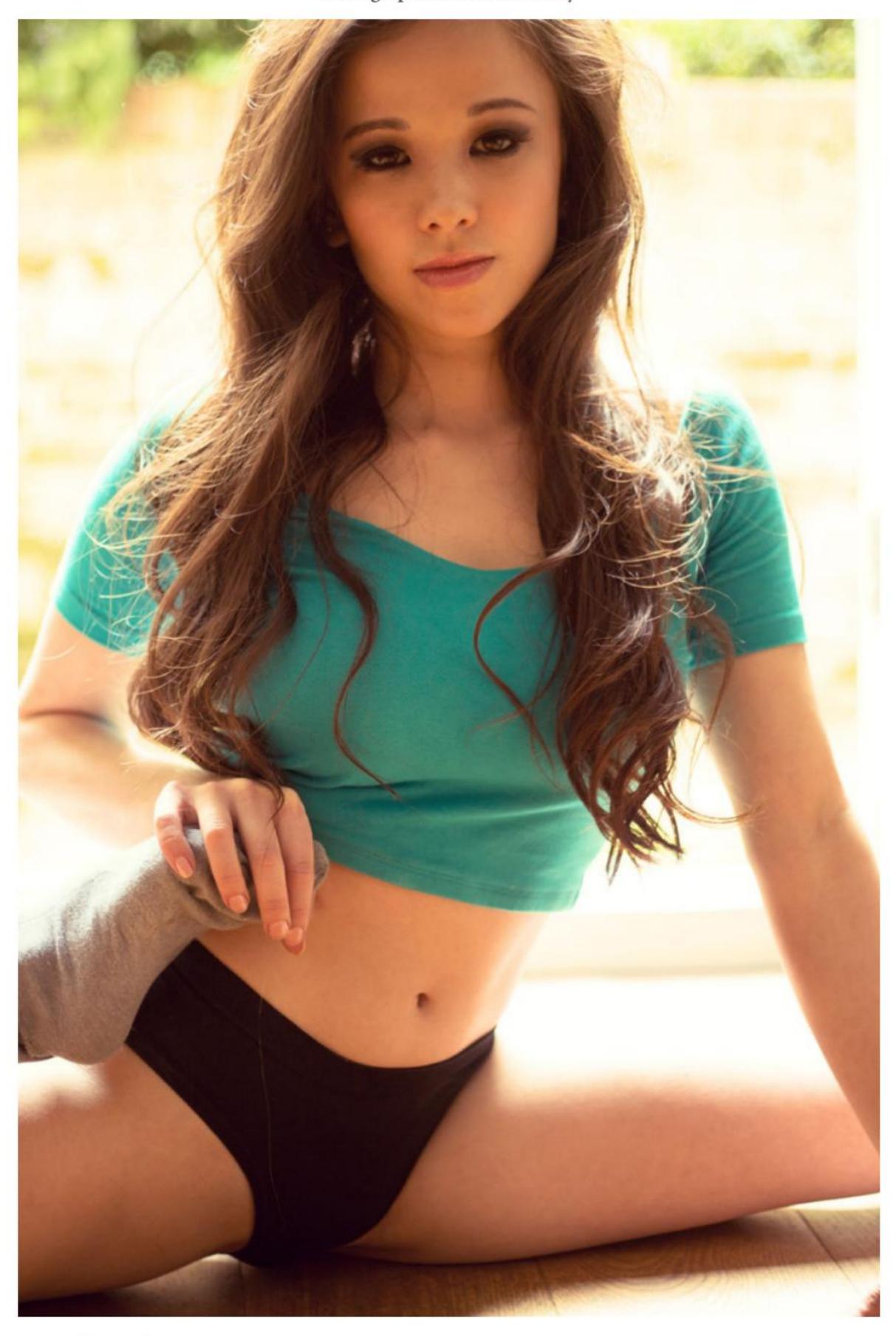


Lou will be bending over backwards to see her again!

Photographer: Damien Morley







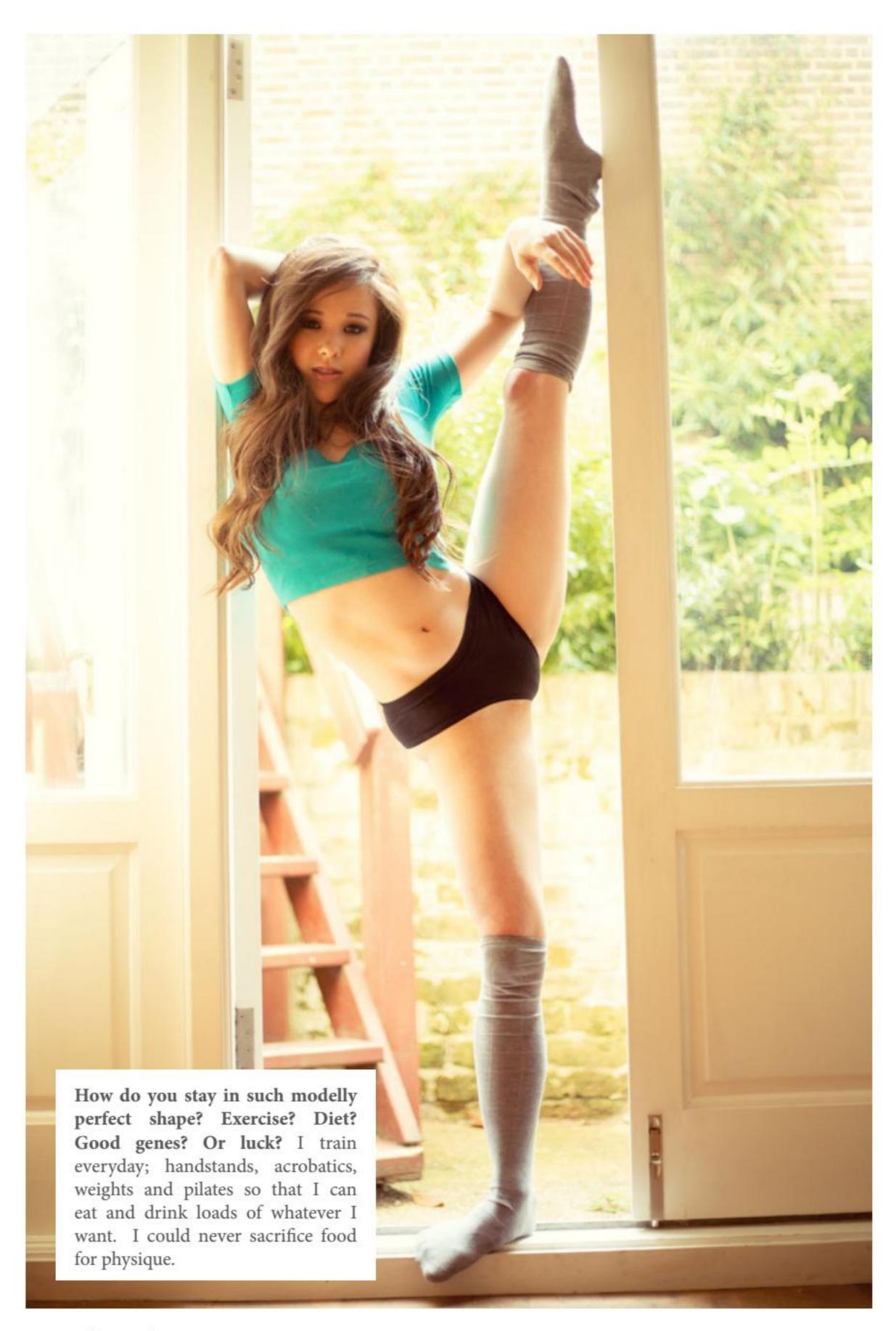






PHOTOGRAPHER: DAMIEN MORLEY

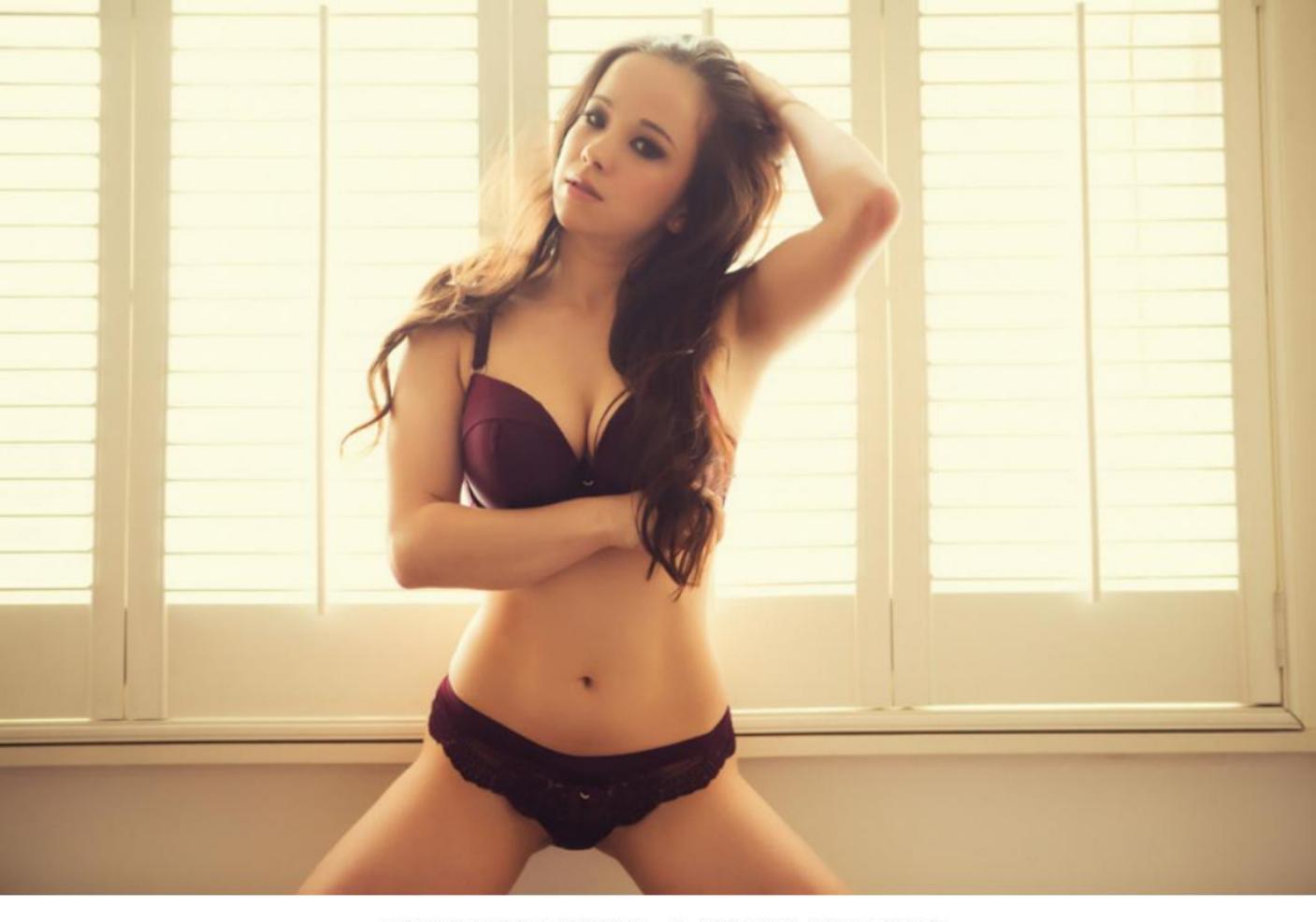












PHOTOGRAPHER: DAMIEN MORLEY



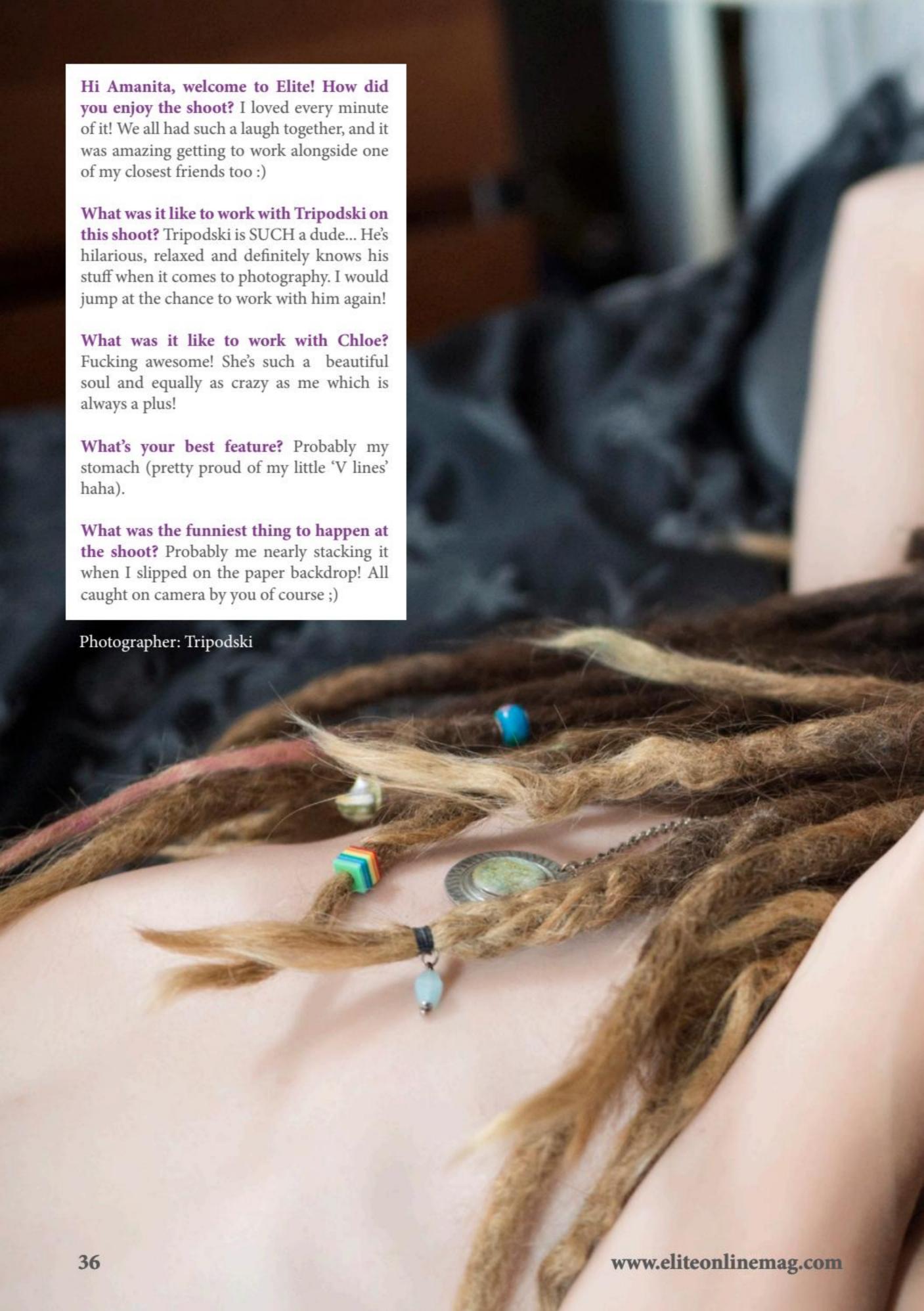


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Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I spend a lot of time working with and training my two running dogs, and I also make jewellery too.

**So how can a guy impress** you? If you've got dreads and can smoke as much as I can, you've got my vote;)

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? Zara Watson is my all time fave; she's been a big inspiration to me from the start.

What is the naughtiest thing you've done? 'Never have I ever... Woken up next to another girl in a Christian prayer room' \*drinks\*;)

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Pin me up against the wall like I'm a masterpiece;)

**Beards - Yes or No?** Hell yeah. Like, why is no even an option?

What's the worst idea you have ever had? My Ex.













Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I'm a bit of a witch. I make concoctions out of herbs flowers and berrys for friends and family! So being outside anywhere or with nature anyway is my jam! The hustle and bustle of cities isn't something I crave! Unless it's a party or some kind.. I do love to dance!

So how can a guy impress you? Don't expect me to chase you. I feel a lot of guys I meet want to be treated like the girl! No way! Bring back masculinity.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? Can I say Amanita? I call myself her fangirl! #girlsontour! If I can't pick her it would have to be El Enya... I love her gothic style!

What is the naughtiest thing you've done? Haha \*tries to think of something that won't get me in trouble.\* ok... well on my last day working in a call center my team leader shared a biff round at lunch as a goodbye present... so we all spent the afternoon giggling like idiots down the phone. Great customer service... Oops!

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Tattoos!

**Beards - Yes or No?** Yes, if they are groomed. No crazy professor haha.

What's the worst idea you have ever had? Jumping in the north sea last october.. I don't know if it's the worst, but it's the most recent therefore most memorable at the moment!











-JOILY GOOD APPARCL-WWW.GROWLANDGRANDCUR.COM CST.MMXT

FOIOWUS FOR FROSH ANCEOMCNOSS
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## actous

This Sparrow has left the flock and made it to our cover

Photographer: Tripodski



Welcome Hollie, how are you? Hey guys! I'm ace thank you! Hope you're well!

Seriously though, we're so thrilled to have you in Elite again Hollie. Did you have fun shooting for us? Aw, thank you! Yeah I had a blast! You guys always make the shoots super fun.

You always seem so effortless on camera, is it hard reinventing yourself for new features? Why thank you, I guess it comes naturally now, as I've been modelling quite a few years now. I wouldn't say so, I like to think my look is quite versatile.

What is the most British thing you do? Ah haha, I do drink a fair amount of tea and I LOVE roast dinners!

You are without a doubt one of the most naturally beautiful people we have met! Have you always been a swan or were you an ugly duckling as a child? Aw you guys! SO SWEET. Ah well, I was a bit of an ugly duckling - I was tiny with scruffy hair, chipped black nails and band tees. So not much has changed! Haha.

Every time of the year seems exciting for you. You're always up to something. When is your chill time and what do you get up to? I like to be busy! My mind doesn't rest, I'm constantly doing things or planning! In my down time, I stay in bed, write a little, play ps4 and cuddle my puppy endlessly.

Something you wear with aplomb is your tattoos. We bet you are starting to put together quite a collection. What is your favourite piece? Ahh, you got me! I've started my sleeve - which is all gonna be various anime and games! My favourite has to be my Monster Reborn from Yu-Gi-Oh. My friend did it for me, so it's got a feminine, gothic twist to it.











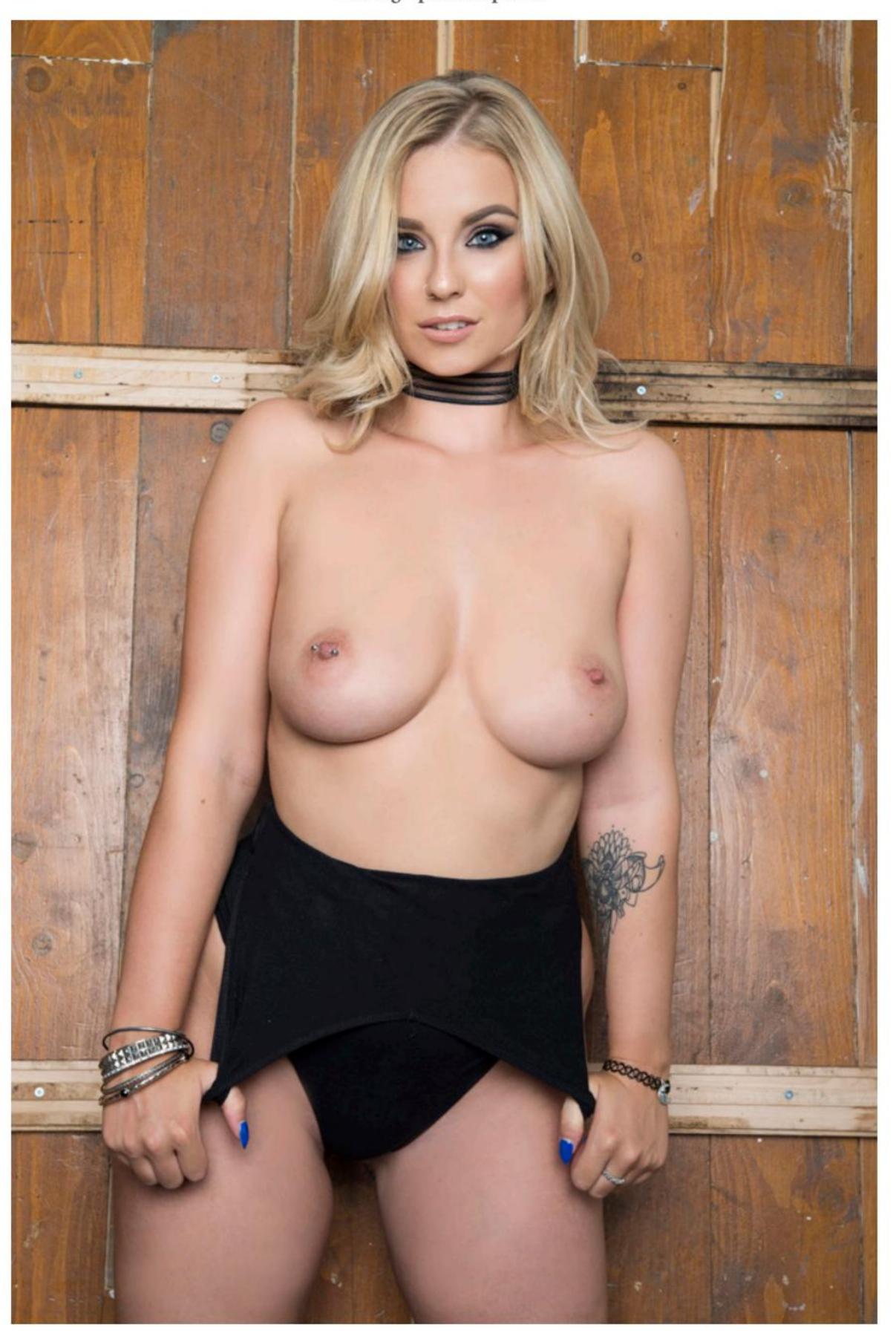












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What's next for Hollie? Staying in the modelling game for now! I'm a Suicide Girl Hopeful, shooting my calendar for 2017 and constantly updating my portfolio. Writing is also a passion of mine, so I'm doing a hell of a lot of scribbling! And last but not least, going to as many festivals and shows as I possibly can!

Are you a homebird or someone that prefers a night on the town? Home for sure! I love my own company and my own space.

It's been a pleasure Hollie. What are you up to after this interview is done? I'm taking my puppy out for a walk and going out for dinner!





## HAVE YOU GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOUR MASSES OF FANS AND OUR LOVELY ELITE READERS? YEAH OF COURSE! THANK YOU SO MUCH GUYS! I HOPE YOU LOVE MY INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS!

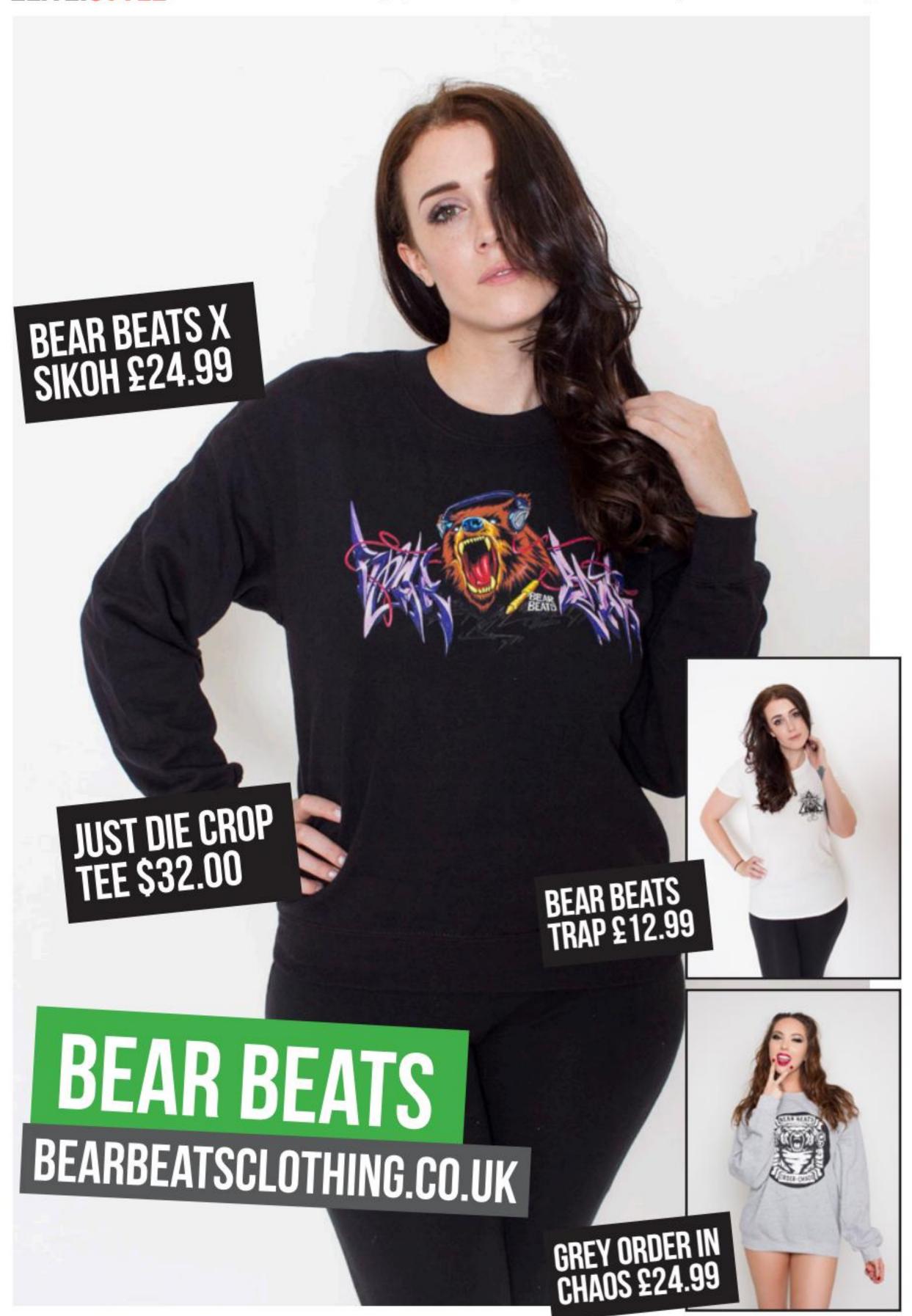
## FINALLY, WILL YOU BE COMING BACK TO US SHORTLY AS WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU! YES I WILL ALWAYS COME BACK #TEAM ELITE

YES I WILL ALWAYS COME BACK #TEAM ELITE

Photographer: Tripodski









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FRESH TO DEATH APPAREL SINCE 2012



So Rosa, did you enjoy your shoot for Elite? I always have an awesome time shooting for Elite. Loads of laughs, music playing, sexy styling and lots of energy!

You live in Devon - does this mean you just surf and enjoy tea? I love both those things! But I also love my music, going to the gym and seeing the world!

We know you got recently in to Pokemon Go, did you manage to keep it going? Unfortunately not, but I appreciate it for what it was, and have some funny memories of exploring Newcastle with Elite looking for Pokemon!

If you can travel anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why? I'd love to shoot in the Grand Canyon, and escape to Iceland for a peaceful retreat.

You are a bit of a legend when shooting as you're a machine... what's your favourite you have shot? I try my best to get in the zone! One of my favourite shoots was two days shooting on the streets of Paris. Class!

Who is your favourite model right now? I am loving Amber Tutton's style at the moment. She works so hard and is really versatile. She can also pull off any wig and look amazing.













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Photographer: ATOM Creative





















What's your favourite part of your body and why? Last time I did this interview I said eyebrows. They are still good you know. I also have good hair but half of that belongs to other people/ponies etc. So errr... Maybe my legs? I'm 5"9 so that's the bit I tend to show off if I'm going out. Boobs are just for publications.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? I don't really like to rate people on a scale to be honest. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder (or beerholder). Some people think you look like a bag of rancid badgers, others want to bank you into next Christmas. That's just how it goes.

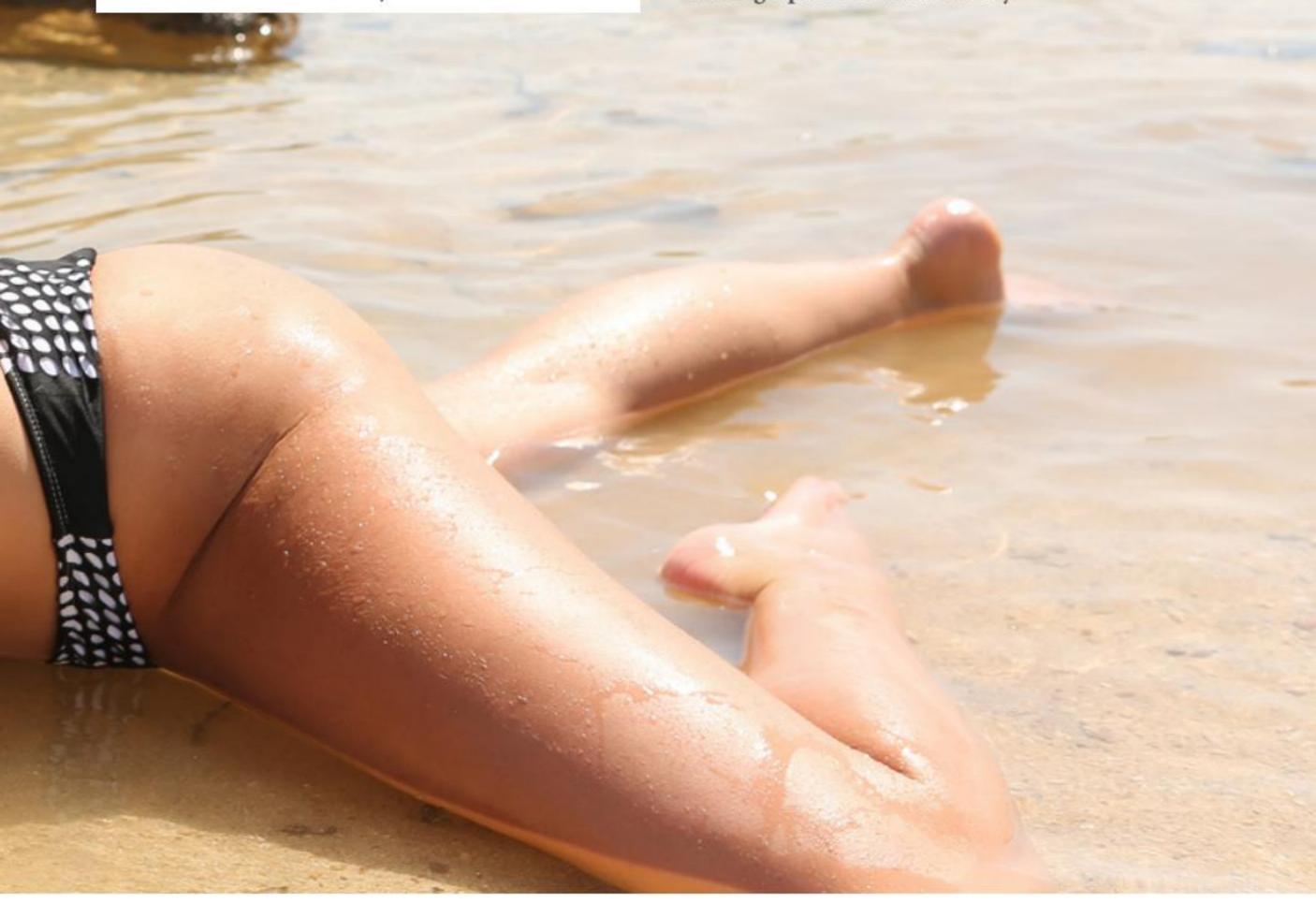
You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Mmm, I don't want to book celebrities I want to book my friends. Can I do that? Well I'm running it so yes I fucking can. Alice Brookes, Cara Ruby, Tamazin Crossmen and me. If you don't know who they are then you should prob go check if you have a penis. Four of the funniest, boobiest, and frankly unladylike(iest?) ladies you will ever meet. Whatever you do don't play "I have never" with them because you will all die.

What's your favourite song currently? I just love the generic bleepy my song my iPhone plays to wake me up in the morning! Joking. That can fuck right off. Even if you put your fave song on as an alarm you end up hating it because you associate it with the hell on Earth that is leaving your bed. Wait what was the question again? I think I've gone off track a bit.

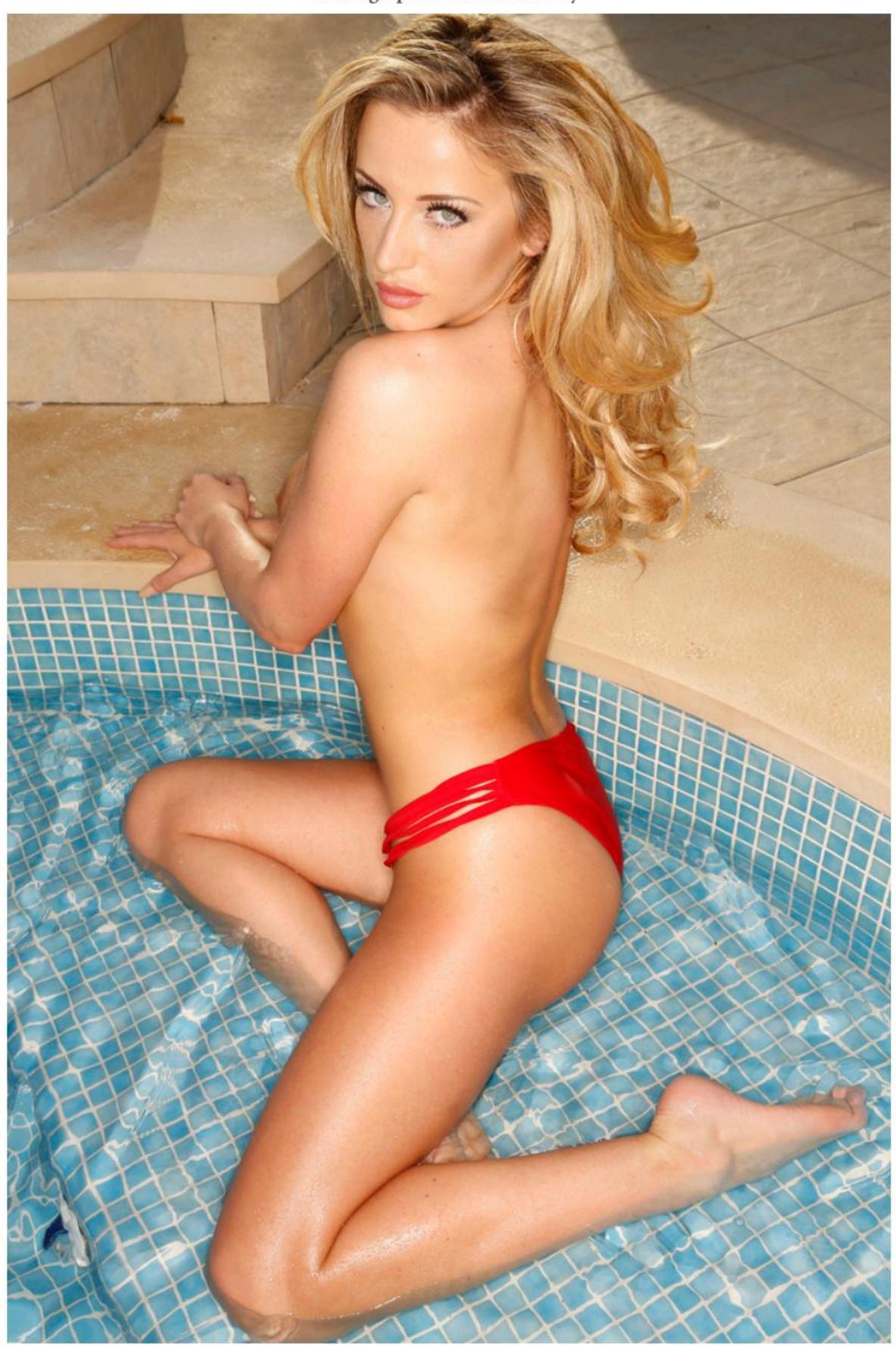
How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? There's a bit of retouching that goes into professional pics you know. Models aren't actually perfect and the sooner people realise that the sooner other girls can start feeling better about themselves and guys can have more realistic expectations. Models have flabby bits, stretchmarks the lot just like everyone else. I'm sucking my stomach in like shit in all of these I'm suprised I don't look constipated.

What do you like most about Elite? The wide variation of the ladies. There's something for everyone!

Photographer: Damien Morley









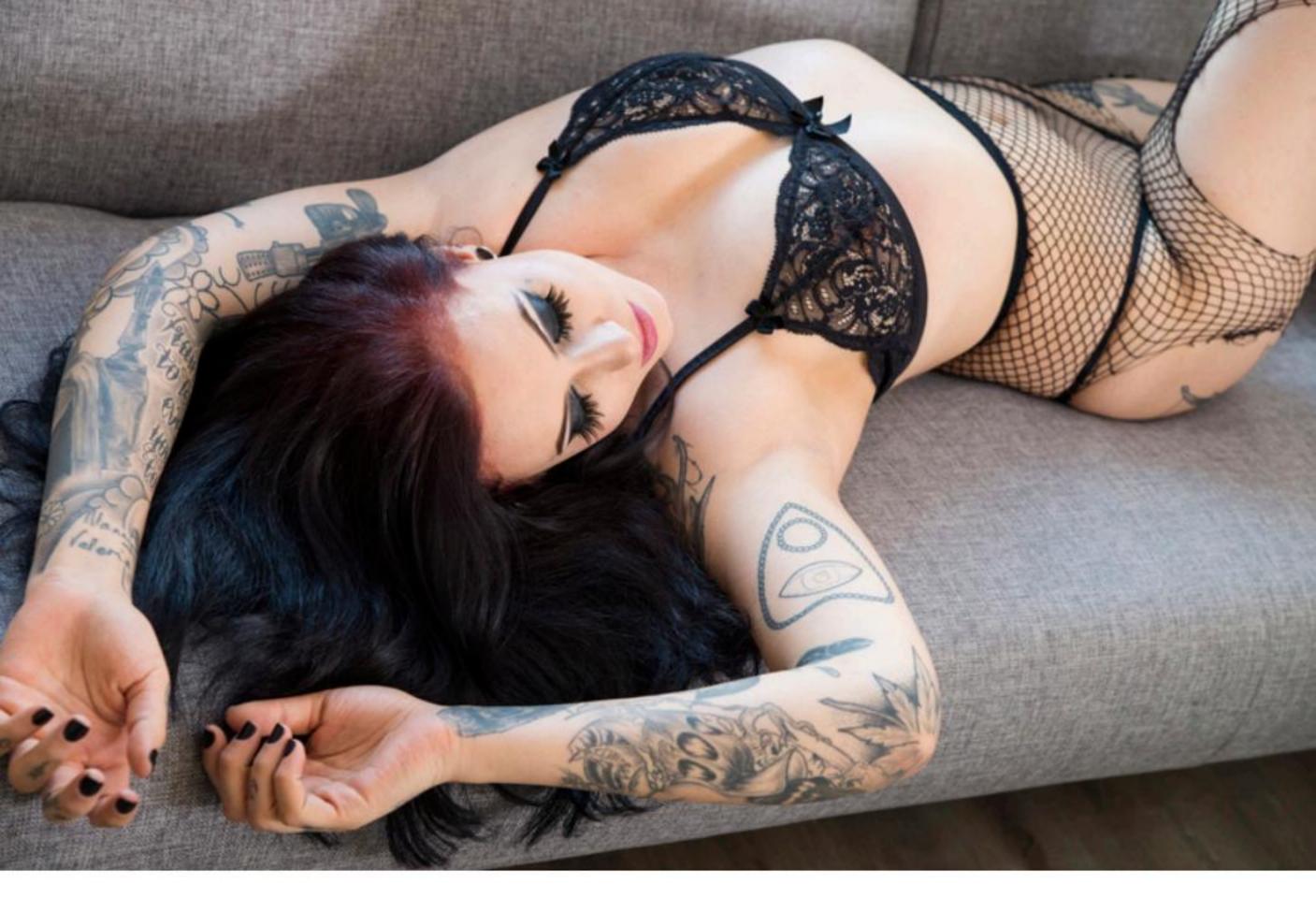












Hey Jenny! Welcome back to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hey guys, I'm glad to be back, it's been a while, I am a fire performer and stripper from London. I am a proud vegan and a workaholic. In my free time I enjoy chilling out and watching movies usually on my own.

What have you been up to since we last saw you? I

have been mega busy with shows. I have just got back from performing all weekend at Bloodstock Festival in the Serpent's Lair VIP tent. I performed my new school girl fire breathing striptease show and my Princess Leia show where I managed to get Darth Vader to walk me on stage (dream come true). I also got to perform my new V for Vendetta balloon blood burst fire show. I had the best time hanging out with all the crew, it was my 3rd year performing there and we have become like a little family. I have also been busy performing with The Dolls UK around the UK and a lot of shows in London clubs such as rah rah rooms, dstrkt and aquarium. We also performed in Germany for Starfire tattoo weekend, I also got to be a backing dancer for a drag show at the working men's club called Sink the Pink for one of my favourite people Bourgeoisie. I think drag queens are amazing and I can't wait to work more in that scene as it's easily my favourite. It's so inspiring and creative.

What was it like to work with the photographer on this shoot? I love working with Tripodski, he's is amazing and we have such a laugh shooting.

What was your favourite part of the shoot? We will always be silly, it was so good to catch up with the Elite guys as they are amazing and always so chilled to work with.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? Such a cringe question but I'm gonna say 10, I love myself and am not afraid to say that. I think more people should love who they are, no matter what shape or size you are. Everyone is different and everyone has different qualities.

If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Hmm probs Agent Provocateur as it's my favourite lingerie.

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Margot Robbie, Jason Momoa, Travis Fimmel and Paige from WWE. They are all super fit and I wouldn't mind seeing them half naked rolling around.





What's your favourite song at the moment? I've been listening to a lot of different things but nothing has really got my attention in a while, the music industry is a bit lame at the moment so just been listening to a lot of Metallica as they are timeless, but don't really have a favourite song at the moment.

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? Whatever they choose to, I had fun on the shoot and I hope you like they photos.

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? I love heavily tattooed athletic men. People who want to achieve a lot out of life and guys with ambition is so attractive. I love it when someone can make me laugh, I also find

it so attractive if someone is into animal rights and making the world a better place. I find confident women attractive and women that speak their mind, boobs are always good too.

**Describe your perfect photoshoot:** Right now I'm into really over the top glamorous photoshoot. I haven't shot anything really like It so hopefully I will get to soon.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I'm vegan and have been for years now. I first went vegan 10 years ago, it has made a dramatic change in my body and health. I have also recently started going to the gym again, it's so fun and I really want to build my strength up.



















Hey Nicole! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hi! Well I'm Nicole from Leeds! I'm a glamour model, a Leo and also on the babe channels. I'm a dog lover and love being In front of the camera!

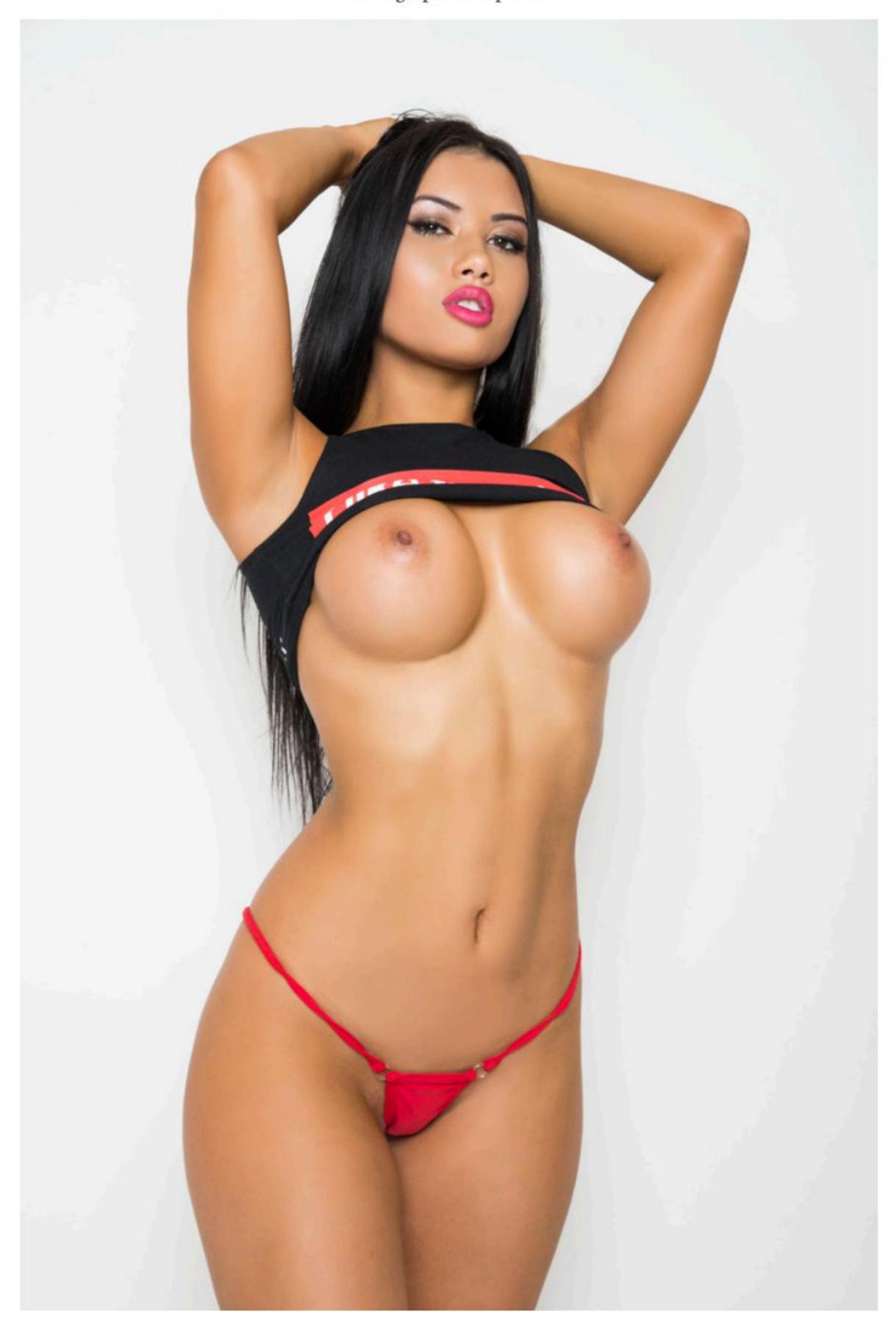
What was it like to work with Tripodski on this shoot? Really great! I loved how relaxed it was, everyone was jamming to tunes and the time flew by... I never wanted to leave

What was your favourite part of the shoot? The best part had to be when I got to eat the lolly I was taking a picture with, as soon as I see sweets I'm like feed me - oh sorry, all of the shoot too hehe.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? I'm not sure, I do get lots of compliments on my butt though so that's probably my favourite I guess

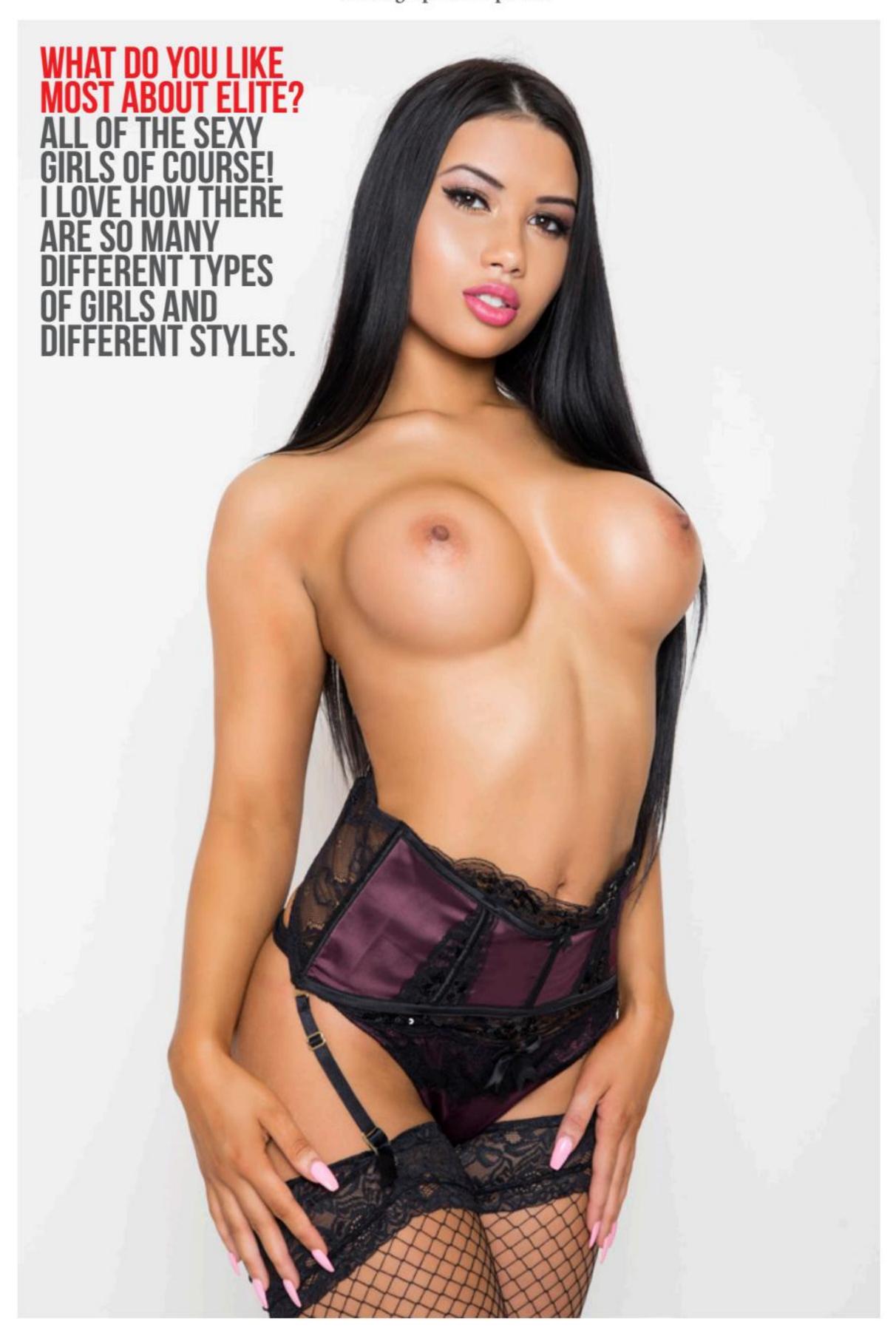
On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? Haha this question! Maybe an 8? You decide for me:D











If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Victoria's Secret! Literally most of my wardrobe is full of clothing by them and who wouldn't wanna be an angel

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Number one choice is Dwayne Johnson because come on he's like made to be half naked in a ring of jelly! Then I'd pick Scarlett Johasson because she's hot as hell, third would be Trey Songz and forth is Beyoncé.

What's your favourite song currently? Currently on repeat is Rhianna - Needed Me. I think everyone that hangs out with me is sick of that song already

**Describe your perfect photoshoot:** In a warm country with a beautiful beach with cocktails by my side! Sounds like heaven.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I try go gym regularly and diet for that matter, but I pretty much eat what I want, I love food too much. I just try to not overdo it with the junk food.



# WHAT'S A GUARANTEED TURN ON FOR YOU? SMELLING NICE, HAVING NICE COLOGNE LITERALLY MAKES ME SO TURNED ON ALSO NECK KISSES, SOON AS YOU TOUCH MY NECK I'M IN A TRANCE.

Photographer: Tripodski









## FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO THE ELITE READERS? THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS, IT'S MUCH APPRECIATED. THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT AND I CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK AND SHOOT SOME MORE! ALSO HOPE EVERYONE HAS A LOVELY DAY XXXXXXX

Photographer: Tripodski

















Photographer: Lana Parker

### Mille Parker



Hey Millie! Welcome to Elite, tell us a bit about yourself: Hello there! I'm Millie Parker and I am from Liverpool.

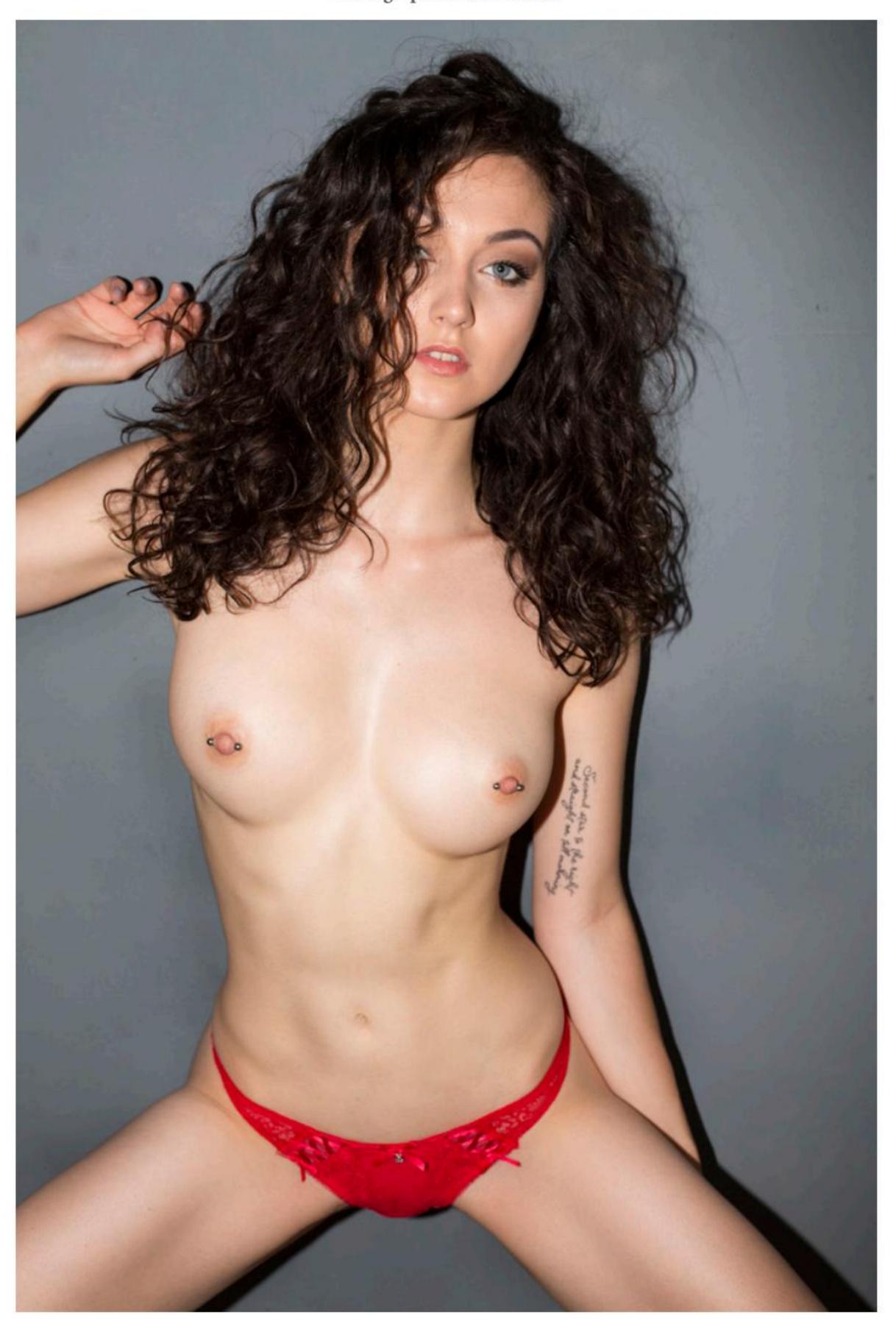
What was it like to work with Lana on this shoot? Oh Lana is a babe to shoot with made me feel super realxed and comfortable. I think her photos are great too!

What was your favourite part of the shoot? My favourite part of the shoot is to just be on set. I love doing shoots.

What's your favourite part of your body and why? My favourite part of my body hmm... I've never really thought about it, I guess I'd go with my eyes because I think eyes are very important. I believe you can tell a lot about someone from the look in their eyes.

On a scale of one to ten, how good looking are you? This probably isn't the answer you were thinking you'd get, but I can honestly say I've never rated myself or anyone I don't believe in rating people on a number scale.

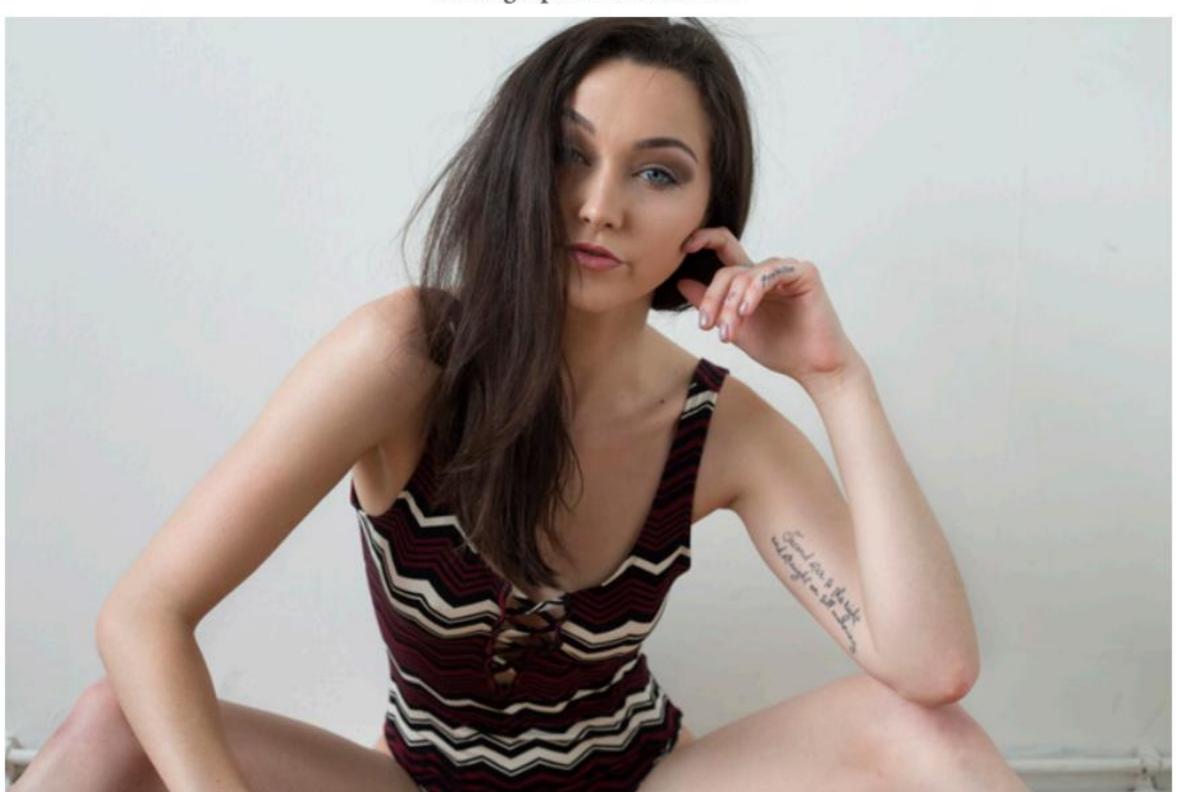








### Photographer: Lana Parker



If you could model for any brand, product or company, which would it be and why? Another tricky one! I'd love the idea of doing a perfume advert because I always think they are pretty sexy. I'd love to do a Levi jeans shoot though for sure!

You're hosting an Elite sponsored jelly wrestling competition. Which four celebrity combatants will you book and why? Well well well... The Kardashians sister with Kylie Jenna. For the only reason that I'm NOT a fan so it would be very funny to watch.

What's your favourite song currently? This is the hardest one yet most definitely. I guess right now at this very moment in time it'd have to be Carole King- I feel the earth move.

What would you like Elite readers to take away from your pictures in our illustrious mag? That I don't take myself serious and I'm up for a laugh.

Describe your perfect photoshoot: Have a good playlist on with fun people on set to make it all a bit fun and easy.

How do you stay in such modelly perfect shape? Exercise? Diet? Good genes? Or luck? I think it's a mixture of good genes and good luck... now I've said this though my luck will probably run out haha!

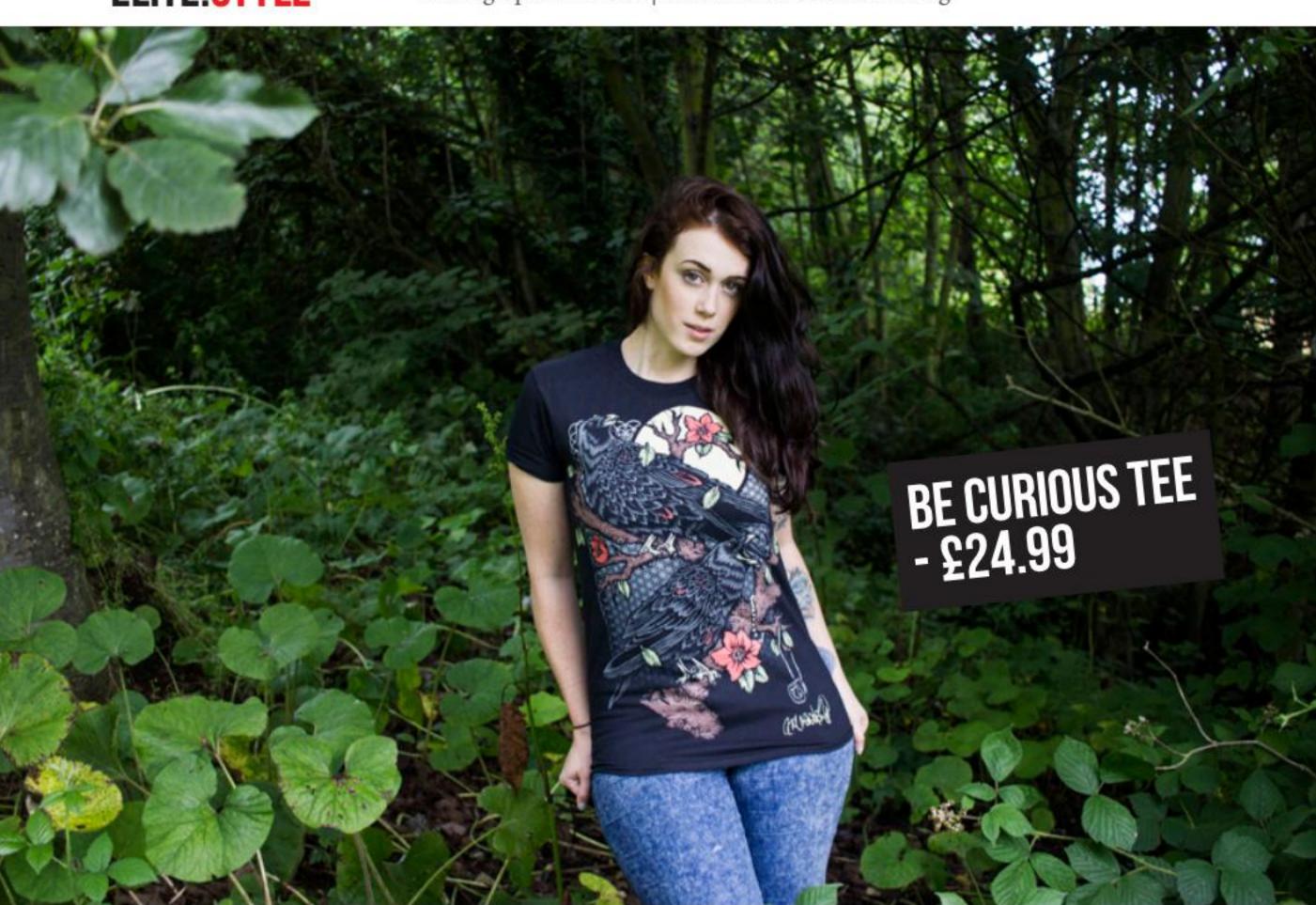
What do you like most about Elite? The style of the lovely ladies that fill it.













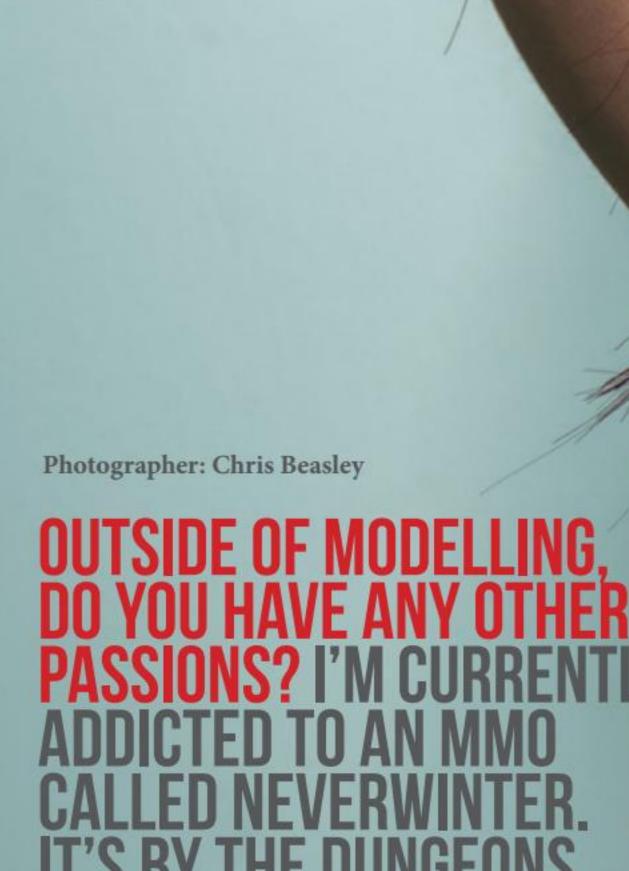












What is the naughtiest thing you've done? I took a pill in Ibiza. Ah wait no that was Mike Posner wasn't it?

AND DRAGONS FOLK.

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Muscles.

Beards - Yes or No? No.

### What's the worst idea you have ever had?

You know when you see a small parking space and you think 'yeah I'll fit in that for sure', but two minutes later you've ruined two cars, your front wing and you can't remember your insurance details. That's basically an analogy for my life.









Hi Raign, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? I really enjoyed myself, I didn't want the shoot to end!

What was it like to work with Chris on this shoot? Chris is amazing at what he does, he's always a pleasure to work with.

What was it like to work with Panda, Rouge and Laika? It was a lot of fun, so much sexiness in one room, it was hard to stay focused at times.

What's Panda, Rouge and Laika's best feature? Panda's boobs, Rouge's eyes and Laika's booty.

What's your best feature? I love my butt, we fight when we go jean shopping, but we always get through it.

What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot? Probably me trying to be sexy, that's always hilarious.







WHAT IS THE NAUGHTIEST THING YOU'VE DONE? DATED TWO BEST FRIENDS AT THE SAME TIME. I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS THAT NAUGHTY BUT THEY EVIDENTLY DIDN'T AGREE.

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I'm a part time artist.

I like to doodle creepy cute babes and space monsters.

So how can a guy impress you? Make me a a killer mushroom risotto and I'm yours. Until I'm hungry again, then it's anyone's game.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? I'm a massive Sophoulla fan, she is everything.

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? Choke me, spank me, call me princess... I'm a simple girl.

Beards - Yes or No? I like the awkward stubble of a man who can't commit to a clean shave, but doesn't have the patience to grow a beard either.

What's the worst idea you have ever had? Studying creative computing haha, smut was a much better career choice.

Photographer: Chris Beasley





Hi Panda, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? I loved it! It was so much fun and so great to work with new people. I'll admit that as a curvy girl I was a bit worried about working with other girls who are so slim and gorgeous that I'd look like a sack of potatoes next to them; but it was fantastic and I felt right at home straight away!

What was it like to work with Chris on this shoot? Chris is an amazing photographer, everything just flowed naturally and was easy. I love some of the darker images he creates outside of Elite as well, his pictures are always recognisable as being his! I'd love to work with him again.

What was it like to work with Raign, Rouge and Laika? I met Raign at he train station, she is such a sweetie and I just kept thinking oh my god she's so tiny! And then I met the others and everyone was tiny - it was strange being one of the taller people there because I'm usually the shortest person in the room! Laika is just amazing and a nerdy Adventure Time girl like me; and Rouge is this tiny gorgeous thing with a right mouth on her, she makes everyone laugh.

What's Raign, Rouge and Laika's best feature? Oh God, that's a tough one! Raign, without question it's that bum. I was mesmerised. I'm still mesmerised, I'm still amazed that I got to touch such a glorious bum! I absolutely love Laika's hair; I'm trying to get my hair as long as hers but it's taking its time! It's just beautiful, she's like a Scottish unicorn. As for Rouge, it's the lips. She has just beautiful bone structure and cheekbones with gorgeous lips. Perfect.

What's your best feature? Ah do I have to? Ok, if I were to pick something facial it would be my eyes; but for an actual body part I'd have to go for the boobs! Lately I am starting to like my bum a bit more, but the girls always win.

Photographer: Chris Beasley





What was the funniest thing to happen at the shoot? Probably me trying to squeeze into all the size 8 clothes on hand! Me trying to fit my junk into a tiny pair of Creep Street Pants that are stuck halfway up my thighs and asking if I'm making this look work or not - I have far too much junk in the trunk for that! And don't even get me started on the tiny bikini top I tried to get into!

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? A lot of my passions are a bit nerdy! I love Pokemon, always have (level 23, Team Valour in case you're wondering), and I like gaming in general. I'm a Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter nerd as well, I like playing nerdy board games like Catan and Lords of Waterdeep. And of course I love music and going to gigs!

So how can a guy impress you? I think the best way to impress me is first of all not acting like a chauvinistic idiot and actually respecting me and having interesting conversation with me instead of just acting like I'm an object. And having things in common with me. And definitely having a sense of humour as black as mine!

What is the naughtiest thing you've done? That depends on what you mean by naughty! When I was 17 I stole a big box of Dairy Milk bars from the little shop we had in college - does that count as naughty!

What's a guaranteed turn on for you? I'm a sucker for a punk boy with a Mohawk. Most girls go for guys who are tanned with muscles, but give me a pale slim dude with tattoos and crazy hair who likes the same bands as me and I'm floored. Throw in nice eyes and a smile with a peachy bum and this turkey is done. I think as well it's when someone can't keep their hands off you, when they have to keep touching you and kissing you and you can see in their face that they completely want you.









Hi Laika, welcome to Elite! How did you enjoy the shoot? Heyy! Yeah it was awesome, as always!

What was it like to work with Chris on this shoot? I always have a good giggle working with Chris, he's an amazing photographer!

What was it like to work with Raign, Rouge and Panda? It was my first time meeting the girls and they were all so lovely!

What's Raign, Rouge and Panda's best feature? Ooh.. that's a hard one... Raign has the cutest smile and dimples, Panda's lovely big boobies and Rouge just has the most banging body ever!

What's your best feature? Ehh... I have these funky brown spots in my eyes, does that count?

Outside of modelling, do you have any other passions? I'm not sure if its a passion, but I'm an avid shoe collector/hoarder... Help me!

**So how can a guy impress you?** I'm a sucker for a nice smile and a wicked sense of humour.

Who has been your favourite model of 2016 so far? Aww I can't pick just one so heres a few... Chayse Black, Rebecca Fox, Becky Holt and Rebecca Crow.













When someone says the words "Professional Wrestling" to you, what is the first thing you think of? Chances are it's something like Hulk Hogan in his little yellow pants cuddling Ultimate Warrior in his face paint and colourful tassels. Maybe if you were around in the early 80's and British, it's Giant Haystacks and Big Daddy fighting for over a decade, including headlining Wembley Arena in 1981 with old ladies in the front row ready to hit the baddies with their handbags. Or possibly it's the likes of The Rock and Stone Cold Steve Austin, smashing each other's heads in with chairs, getting thrown through the announcers tables and then drinking beers to close an episode of Monday Night Raw. However you remember it, unless you're a fan, it's that thing you liked as a kid that you grew out of only to be thought of again with fond nostalgia.

For British wrestling, when World of Sport was taken off the television in 1985, its popularity declined massively. While die-hard fans were able to see regular live shows all around the country, the casual TV viewer slowly forgot about wrestling and moved on to other things. But British wrestling was still there, the diehards never stopping going to the live events. Then as WWF and WCW became more popular thanks to Sky TV and then ITV and Channel 4, the popularity of wrestling in Britain stared to grow again slowly. Smaller independent American wrestling companies also started to gain popularity, with the likes of Ring of Honor and Combat Zone Wrestling finding a market in this country thanks to tape and DVD trading. Even with this increase in awareness of Professional Wrestling, the British companies and workers were seemingly regularly overlooked in favour of their American counterparts. But not anymore...

British Wrestling has seen a large resurgence in recent years, with the independent wrestling scene becoming one of, if not the, best in the world. This boom has had a lot to do with British companies and wrestlers really finding their own voices and making things works for themselves, instead of trying to fit into a mould of what other countries are doing. Two companies are the forefront of this resurgence are Insane Championship Wrestling (ICW), based in Glasgow, and PROGRESS Wrestling, based in London.

Insane Championship wrestling is the brainchild of Mark Dallas, who started the company in 2006. For the last ten years, they have slowly but steadily grown into a country wide touring company. This has been helped along in no small part by two prime time documentaries made and shown on the BBC. Mark Dallas says "ICW's growth, especially since the two BBC documentaries has



been staggering. It's been hard to keep up with, even up to this point in time, where we've got TV in 38 countries and are in talks with several more. There's computer games getting made and stuff like that. Even though it's hard to keep up with, there doesn't seem to be any stopping it yet." Their big anniversary show each year is held in November and called Fear and Loathing, which in 2015 took place at the SECC in Glasgow in front of a sold out crowd of 4000 fans. "There's been a lot of big shows we've done at venues like the Barrowlands in Glasgow which were huge milestones in ICW's history, however the SECC seemed as if it was a huge event in British history. It was the first time we'd carved out a place for ourselves in the history books, and were the biggest British wrestling event for 32 years. It felt like something everyone who was involved with it would look back on with pride when we were old men." The main event of that show pitted ex-WWE star Drew Galloway against one of the most popular performers in the world today, Grado. Grado has broken himself into the almost mainstream over the last few years, being the subject of a documentary from VICE magazine, featured on Challenge TV's British Bootcamp show where he competed to get a contract with America's TNA Wrestling, and also regularly featured on BBC Scotland comedy series Scot Squad. This year's anniversary event takes place at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow, which at full capacity is a 12,000 seat venue. Ambitious? Yes, definitely. But so was the 4000 capacity SEC the year before. Nothing is impossible these days.



PROGRESS Wrestling in London are widely lauded as being one of the best wrestling promotions in the world at the moment. Formed in 2011 by comedian Jim Smallman and his friend Jon Briley, then later actor Glen Joseph joined the management team, the company has grown quite steadily over the last four years. The ethos of PROGRESS, is quite simple, punk rock pro wrestling where everyone is welcome. As Smallman says "We've always considered ourselves "punk rock pro wrestling" because it fits the ethos of everything we do, from the action inside the ring to our attitudes outside of it. We've always felt a bit underground, never advertising our shows when we started out and relying on word of mouth. It helps that we've always run in music venues since we began it adds to the feel of our product... When we started out we were definitely different to the norm." It's this all-inclusive nature of the shows, along with Smallman's effortless presenting style that has created a real sense of community amongst the fan base. The venues that PROGRESS have chosen really live up to the Punk-Rock Pro-Wrestling moniker as well that will be well known to any music fan from London. Starting off at The Garage in Islington, before quickly outgrowing that venue and moving to the Electric Ballroom in Camden, the venues are as much a part of the show as the wrestlers and the crowd. To date, PROGRESS has sold out every show they have put on in London, at one point selling all 700 tickets in under 17 minutes. A feat a lot of bands would be incredible pleased with these days. Also, PROGRESS was asked to perform at every night of Download festival in 2015, where on one night there were over 3000 people watching. In keeping with the venue traditions they've laid forth so far, PROGRESS are putting on a show on September 25th at one of the most iconic music venues in London, Brixton Academy. It's not just the fans who are enthusiastically gearing up for this show, the wrestlers and owners alike can't wait for it. "We're stupidly excited about Brixton. Waiting for September 25th is like waiting for Christmas when you're a kid. To be able to put on a British independent wrestling show in such an iconic venue is a quite ridiculous honour, and we know that everyone that we have scheduled to be on the show will blow the minds of anyone who is new to British wrestling." - Smallman

PROGRESS use a roster of incredible home grown talent, many of whom are now looked on as some of the best wrestlers in the world. "Using primarily talented British wrestlers rather than imported talent has always made us look like we're trying to build something new and cool up rather than just going with what is popular across the pond" says Smallman. Will Ospreay has just returned from Japan where he won the incredibly prestigious Best of the Super Juniors tournament. Not only was he the first British wrestler to win this, he did this at 23 years old. Alongside Will, Zack Sabre Jr is hailed as the best technical wrestler in the world, winning championships both here and abroad in the USA and Japan. He is currently competing in the WWE's Cruiserweight Classic Tournament on their NXT Brand, which is not only fantastic for him as a performer, but for British wrestling as a whole. This worldwide recognition of British talent and British wrestling is only helping to cement the scene as incredibly exciting and can't miss.

If the current trend continues the way it has, the sky is the limit for British Wrestling and Wrestlers. Get yourselves involved now and get to a local show.

### Words by Jimmy Havoc













RAMBLIN' MAN FAIR

The second ever Ramblin' Man Fair commenced on the 23rd and 24th July in Mote Park, Maidstone. The idea of this sizeable festival is to blend classic rock, country, prog rock and new breed rock and roll into a melting pot of good music, good food, ale and whiskey. With the average audience member's age being around 45, there was a sense of maturity and level headedness which is not present at most major festivals. However this isn't without its sense of fun. Cowboy hats, dungarees, shitty shirts with flames and tigers on them. You name a country or rock n roll cliche, Ramblin' Man had it in spades. A comfortable start to a welcoming, inclusive festival.

First up for us were Ginger Wildheart. Pure, untainted, rock and roll music from the Geordie man himself, Ginger. Exuberating bravado and cockiness, Ginger answers heckles from the crowd. "All the legends are dead? I'm not dead mate". Ginger and his Wildheart band play through a solid set of rock and roll to start our day.

Europe follow closely on main stage. Expectations are understandable for this band. With a packed out main stage, everyone was there waiting to hear 'The Final Countdown'. Obviously waiting until the end of their set for this, Europe play a distinctly average set of unnoteworthy rock songs from the 4 decades they've been around. However as soon as that keyboard riff kicked in, everyone was having the time of their lives. Top classic tune.

Next over to one of the smaller stages for a little bit of something from The White Buffalo. Interviewed in this month's issue, we learnt that he doesn't like to confine his sound to one genre and this is clear from his band's live set. Sporting an aggressive contrast to his dulcet vocals his backing band punish their respective instruments in an emotionally driven highlight of the day. Definitely a band to check out next time Mr Buffalo and his crew are back over in the UK.

Back to the enormous main stage for another classic band. Thin Lizzy play one of the tightest sets we've seen all year. The precision and energy was second to none, especially for a band with so many years under their belt. Where other classic bands have felt tired and sloppy, Thin Lizzy smash it out of the ball-park dropping into some almost progressive rock in the middle of their set, with some exceptional guitar work during 'Emerald'. Another notable event included a guest appearance from "the worst guitarist Thin Lizzy ever had", Midge Ure. Finishing off with classic Whiskey In the Jar, Thin Lizzy display everything that this festival is about. Joviality, inclusion, diversity and rock!











Headlining the country stage was the hillbilly tribute to AC/DC, Hayseed Dixie. This is somewhat of a novelty act, playing covers of AC/DC, Black Sabbath and other rock acts for the majority of their set. The music was tight and it was funny for all of 15 minutes or so. Not a displeasing way to end our engagements at the smaller stages, but by no means anything mind blowing.

To finish off the first day off music at Ramblin' Man we have classic rock giants Whitesnake. Whilst their back catalogue isn't completely saturated with hits, they certainly have released a banger or two. The peak of their set being their hit 'Here I Go Again'. Downsides of the set included obnoxious guitar and drum solos lasting for between 5 and 10 minutes. That aside, Whitesnake put on an excellent performance and bring the first day of the festival to a close in glamorous style.

Day 2 for us began with The Kentucky Headhunters. This group were largely unknown to us before the festival, however we were made aware of their importance by a lot of festival goers on the day. The guitarist's son being the drummer from the day's headliners Black Stone Cherry, being their most notable draw. They've been together since the 60s and it really shows. Their on-stage chemistry was particularly notable and a late cameo appearance by Black Stone Cherry on stage really emphasised the love and community involved between these two bands.

Over to the blues stage now for a rather strange billing, Devin Townsend and Che Aimee Dorval's Casualties of Cool. Devin Townsend is known for his all-round extreme metal band Strapping Young Lad, and prog-laden side project (now main project) The Devin Townsend Project. Seeing his name on the bill, we were not sure what to expect from this, especially with it being on the blues stage.

Stepping out of the spotlight and allowing lead singer Aimee Dorval to take the spotlight is uncharacteristic of Townsend, however the ghoulish, droning blues songs played as a duet took the whole audience on a journey. The rhythmic pulses and grounded bass was headed by Townsend, while Dorval harmoniously sang over the top. A magical, slightly trippy way to start the evening.









Swiftly following Devin and Che were Australian, definitely not a rip off of AC/DC, rockers Airbourne. All stigma aside, Airbourne are the world's leading young talent in classic rock. They collectively ooze metric tons of youthful exuberance, playing every second of the set as if they wrote the songs within the last week. Tight, catchy and wild are all words we would use to perfectly sum up the experience that is Airbourne live. There was rig climbing, shoulder riding and many-a-can smashed on the head of frontman Joel O'Keeffe. Particular note should be drawn to new track 'Breaking Out of Hell' that despite the fact that it had only been out for a matter of weeks, was pelted from the lungs of thousands of fans competing for the gaze of the band for a solid 45 minutes. Highlight of the day for us.

Thunder are another band similar to Europe, in that they have one song everyone is waiting for. However in Thunder's case they manage to hold the crowd's attention a lot more than Europe with a little bit more musical prowess and audience engagement. Thunder display all the characteristics of a band who have been on the circuit for decades. A fantastic end to a fantastic festival. If you've ever enjoyed a simple bit of rock 'n' roll. You could do way worse than a weekend at Ramblin' Man Fair.

Words by Kris Aarre Photos by Tom Russell



## NAPOLEON

### Support - Create To Inspire, When Our Time Comes O2 Islington Academy 2

After years of uncertainty and several line up changes tech metallers Napoleon have finally released that elusive debut album, Newborn Mind. The band drafted in former Climates vocalist Wes Thompson, even though still young a seasoned and well crafted frontman in his own right. The record release tour hits London tonight and the ingredients are all there to make for a great night of music and celebration.

Hitting the stage first is London quintet When Our Time Comes, a melodic post hardcore unit. Right from the off the muddy sound does the band no favours as the low end of their thick riffs is lost and doesn't quite make the same impact as on record. Frontman Joe Carter-Hawkins sounds like he should be in a boyband instead and contributes bland and cliche banter in between songs. As this goes on the set sounds very confused and nothing stands out, the music is sub standard as the band sit alongside a cluster of other young UK metal bands who don't offer anything new or exciting.



However, a young band that is turning heads are Create To Inspire. Straight away there's an energy and purpose in their performance. The band are tight and offer some hefty riffs to vocalist Sean Midson's piercing screams. 'Counting Days' key lyric "I'm sick of feeling sick, I never wanna feel like this again" sounds enormous and is spat with real conviction. The band have been hidden away writing this year and have recently spent time in the studio recording their debut album. Two songs from said debut are aired tonight and we can say with ease that we're excited. Sean makes his way into the crowd that has eventually livened up and started a couple of pits. 'Halfway Home' signals the end of the Essex crews impressive support slot.

Napoleon finally hit the stage to a rapturous applause from the eager and dedicated fanbase in Islington tonight. As soon as 'Dystopia' roars out the speakers there's one or two stage dives and a melee to get to Wes' mic. Its clear to see the band are riding on a high right now as the technicality of Sam Osbourne's riffs are executed with frightening precision, whilst Wes delivers one of his most confident and passionate performances we've seen. 'Newborn Mind', 'Of Jams, Smokes & Promises' and 'Different Skin' all come across brilliantly and its easy to see that there's a fresh breath of life in Napoleon. Wes even screams out fan favourite 'Brought Here To Suffer' as if it was his own words and convinces us that this is a new time and a new start for the four piece. The band thank the crowd with smiles all round and describe it as one of the best shows of their career, which they close out with 'Afterlife'. A glorious way to end an unpredictable night, this show needed to be a success to see what direction Napoleon would be heading in, and with confidence we can only see their trajectory sky rocketing from here.

Words and Photos by Joshua Clarke







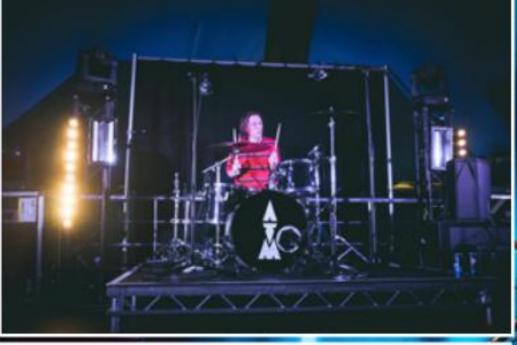




### YNOT FESTIVAL

PIKEHALL, DERBYSHIRE 29 - 31 JULY 2016



















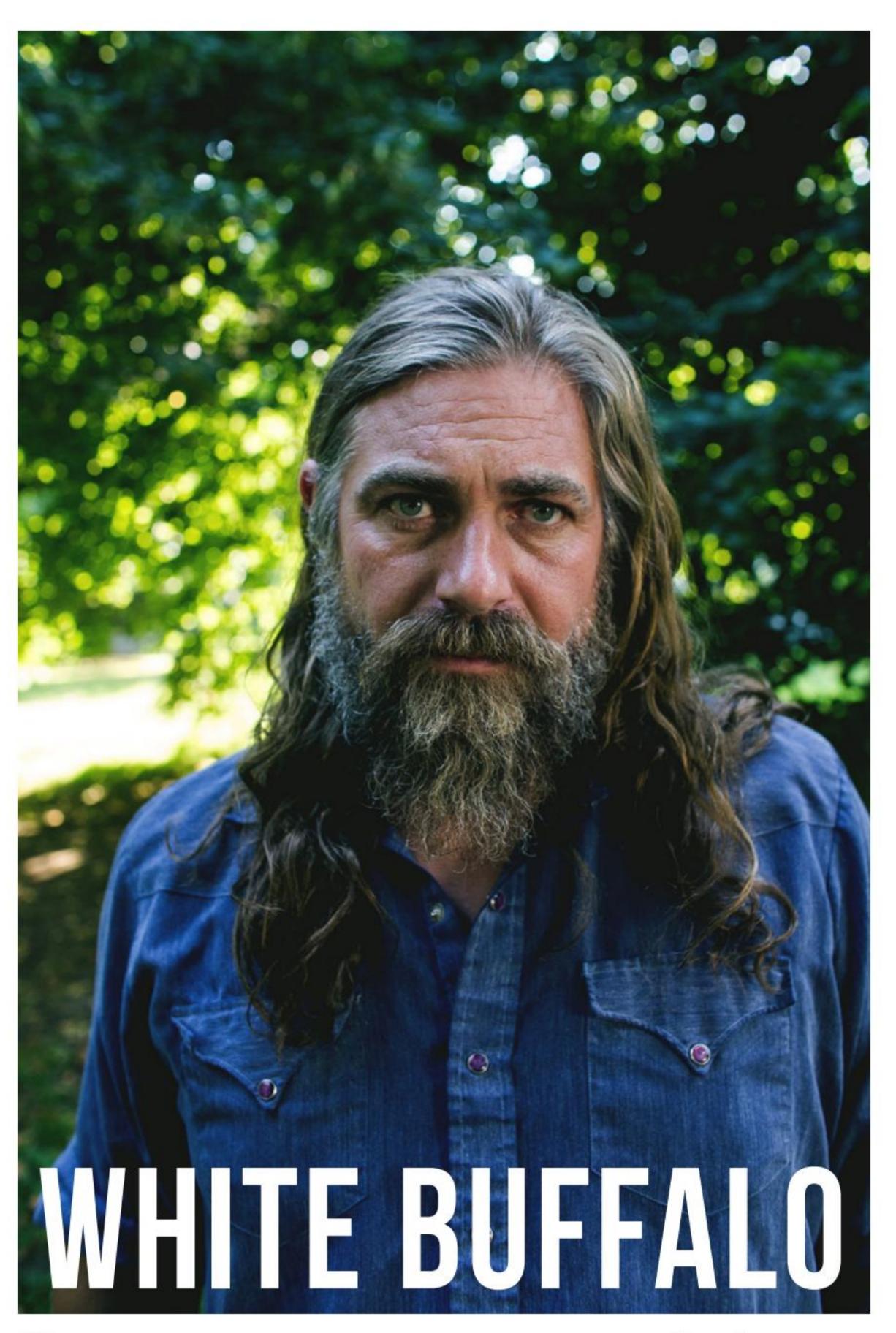




# VINOT FES

Photos by Anthony Hunt





Whilst we attended Ramblin' Man Fair we caught up with Jake Smith AKA The White Buffalo, for an extended chat about defining musical genres, his music being featured on Sons of Anarchy, and the enigmatic man himself!

#### So shall we call you Jake or Mr Buffalo?

Jake is fine, either way is cool. I'm happy with Mr Buffalo actually.

## So what would you define as your genre? You seem a little hard to pin down across your many records.

It's kinda hard to say. I suppose it's just American music. Not Americana, not blues, not country. It has all those aspects but it has my twist on it.

# In your genre, your field. What's going on in that scene? Do you like to stay aware of other acts doing similar things?

I don't really know. Some artists come up a lot, but I just try and do my own thing without too much influence from others. I'm a songwriter and we perform the songs really stripped down.

It's all about the songs people write. The emotion, the passion and the feelings. So similar to me I'd say Jason Isbell has similar ideas to what we do.

#### With a genre so hard to define, is the audience at your live shows as diverse as your musical influences?

It's really all kinds, the demographic is varied and large. Slipknot shirts, Sons of Anarchy shirts, someone's wearing a Dwight Yoakam shirt. The songs are all about a variety of things and there's something for anybody to latch onto. Young and old. Families with three generations turning up. It's so cool.

#### So you mentioned Sons of Anarchy.... How did you land that job? Would you like to explain a little about what you've done for that TV show?

It was complete luck, years ago. My lawyer contacted their music supervisor. I wasn't on a label, didn't have management or anything and my lawyer pitched some of my songs to them. Then they started using my songs. The music fit with the themes of the show. Big guys who are emotional and frail under the surface, but then they do gruesome shit. Then I kept recording stuff and submitted it to them saying it would be good for the show. Then the relationship grew and I started coming in on some songs and we just have a really great relationship now.

# Your record 'Love and the Death of Damnation' has been out for the majority of this year now, your first real release in Europe, how has the record been received?

It's been great. We've been able to tour this one and everything's been sold out or close. We managed to play to between 400 and 1300 people a night. We didn't know what to expect.

### Are you quite sheltered from the UK over in the States?

Yeah, we didn't know how things were going until we toured here.

# How would you sum up your live sound then, is it different to your recorded sound?

It's definitely very aggressive, but still very dynamic. We really try and make the audience lose themselves in the songs. That's what the live show's about.

# The last thing we'd like to say to you is, you're really difficult to find information about on the internet in terms of researching the person behind the music. Is this intentional?

There isn't much of a persona, no smoke and mirrors, but at the same time I like my personal privacy. With social media you can end up exposing too much of your life. I like to keep life pretty simple.



# A-Z WITH HEEL

PokemonGo, nip slips and surviving in a world without KFC and internet porn... we caught up with vocalist Margarita and guitarist Dan of London rock band, Heel!

# Album - What was the first ever album you bought?

Margarita: Mine was a burned copy of Slipknot's self-titled album. I totally had all the words down the same week I got it and didn't go a day without pumping 'Wait and Bleed'. My poor dear sweet old mother!

**Dan:** Mine was The Simpsons Sing The Blues on Cassette tape. Just banger after banger after banger! 'Do The Bartman' taught me everything I know about love and the fragility of the human condition.

## Boredom - What do you do to cure boredom on long drives between shows on tour?

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Margarita: SLEEEEEEEEEE. If you left it all on the stage you should have nothing left when you get in that bus. If I do find myself awake I spend endless hours playing about on my phone and catch jokes with the guys.

Dan: I write poetry and think about art because I'm an artistic artist who loves creative art. Also, I think

of things to say in Magazines that will impress girls.

# Cover Songs – If could only cover songs from one band for the rest of your musical career, whose songs would you pick?

**Dan:** Definitely George Michael. Dude has some serious tunes and we do a version of Careless Whisper that will make you forget your own name. Also, he's done about a million albums so there'd be plenty of source material to rock up and Heelify.

## Describe – How would you describe your sound in just 3 words?

Margarita: Not Fucking Around

## Essential Items - What essential possession could you not live without?

Dan: A pen and paper. If I don't write down the thoughts in my head I go mental.

Margarita: Doggie Bear. He's my dog teddy bear and he goes everywhere the band goes. He's just about the coolest dude you'll ever meet. He's seen things you can't even imagine.

#### Festivals – What is your top tip for festivals?

Margarita: Talk to and experience everyone around you. There are fuck all other places where 50,000

people can share a common love for one thing at one time. It's all the best things about life at full volume.

#### Gigs - Best/Worst gig you've ever played?

**Dan:** Best is probably our album Launch this year at The Borderline. We've done bigger but it was epic to pack out a venue we used to hang out in with people who all came to see us!

Margarita: Worst has to be anything we did for the first year or two. Nobody knows who you are, the sound was always terrible sound, and we had absolutely no clue what we were doing.

### Highlights – What has been the biggest highlight for the band so far?

Margarita: I think for all of us it's different but getting so much TV and Radio for all our recent singles has been amazing. For a band who's never even spoken to a record label or manager I think we're doing alright on that front.

**Dan:** For me it was going on Johnny Doom's TV show. I'm a big fan of his show on the radio and it was nice to break have a few cameras on us without having to sweat my nuts off performing.

### Instrument - If you pick up and learn to play any instrument, what would it be?

Margarita: Instruments are for people who can't sing right??? Nah, I'd probably want to play piano or guitar. Just something to put ideas on when I'm writing.

**Dan:** Whereas now she just puts ideas on me! I love the guitar too much to even consider it. I honestly think if I gave a shit about any other instrument I'd have learnt it by now.

#### Joke – Tell us your best joke!

Margarita: Anything that involves the words MUM and YOUR.

Dan: A man walks into a shop and asks for some red paint. The shopkeeper says, "Sorry I've only got green". The man says, "It's OK I've got a bike outside".

## Knowledge - Who is the best at totally useless knowledge and weird facts?

**Dan:** Gotta be Fred. He's the one who's always dropping an unsolicited education on us whenever we're traveling on tour.

Line-up – If you could put together your ideal tour line-up, and you could pick two bands to play alongside you, who would you pick and why?

Margarita: Hmmmmm... I'm not person who would

ever want to be part of a parade of bands that all sound the same so I'd say our mates Mikhail Daken and Brosephine to open then we'd go into some Skindred, Rod Stewart, System of a Down, Aerosmith and Slipknot.

## Material - You've recently released your debut album! How did that go down with fans?

Dan: Way better than we could have hoped. The response from fans has been humbling and awesome. We made the album very much for us and didn't really think about what other people might think of it, so it was great to put it out there and see people really vibing with it.

Margarita: Yeah I can't believe how many people have found it and love it. It's a total blessing!

# Next - What's next to come from the band? What do you hope to have achieved by the end of the year?

Margarita: We never plan anything like that. We're in music to make music and that's exactly what we're doing, so hopefully by the end of the year we'll still be doing that. Right now we're just booking shows and enjoying playing the music we've created with each other and the world.

# Opportunity – If you were given the opportunity to headline any festival in the world, which would you pick?

**Dan:** Rock in Rio for sure. It's the biggest and the rest is in the title. Insane Brazilian Rock fans everywhere and it's in fucking Rio. What could be better than that!

*Margarita*: I'd say Woodstock in Poland. The whole thing is free and everyone there parties harder than I even thought possible.

### Prodigy – If you could have been a child prodigy, what would you have been skilled at?

Dan: Countdown, and I will give my reasons in the form of a conundrum 'MADSNATCH'.

Margarita: PokemonGo. I've never played it but clearly those people are the new Rockstars. We're surely only months away from this feature being about nerdy young adults who rock at iPhone games. Remember I called it when it happens.

#### Queen - Who is the band's biggest drama queen?

**Dan:** We definitely take it in turns, but in order it probably goes Margarita, Dan, Nick and Fred. Nick would be higher but he spends so much time sleeping it kind of lowers his average.

#### Rituals - Do you have any pre-show rituals?

*Margarita*: Tons of food. Although we eat like starving slobs all the time so the fact there's a show after might just be coincidence. Either way, WE EAT!

## Stage - Have you ever had anything embarrassing happen to you whilst on stage?

Margarita: I'm a girl who jumps around so there have obviously been some nipple related accidents along the way.

**Dan:** Yeah me too. I've started strapping them down to avoid the inevitable embarrassment of another Dan nip slip.

## Tips - What tips or advice would you give to anyone starting up a band?

Margarita: Do it if you really love it and you have something to say. There's enough people out there already who don't fulfil both those criteria.

Dan: I'd say don't wait until you think it's perfect. Just make the music and let the world decide. If it's shit, go make something better. If you can't, stop.

#### Unknown - Tell us an unknown fact about the band!

Dan: We all lost our virginities on May 16th of different years.

#### Viral – If you could do or say something that would go viral, what would you want it to be?

Dan: So obviously a sextape. I mean seriously, is there even another answer? This whole artistic thing is a

total drag. I just wish the solo sextape I keep putting up online would gain some Kardashian level traction so I can move to Cali and start marrying rappers. Is that really too much to ask?!?!?

## Writing - What influences you when it comes to writing new songs?

Margarita: We influence ourselves. We write words about our lives and things we feel and then put them to music we love that makes sense to us. Influence isn't a word we have in our vocabulary.

### X-rated - Do you have any bizarre or x-rated tour stories?

Margarita: There may or may not have been a time where a guy who may or may not play the bass may or may not have had sex with 6 girls in 3 days... and if you find those numbers confusing you're wasting your life!

#### Year - What can we expect to see from the band for the remainder of this year?

**Dan:** We've just released a new video 'Shatter' and we'll be doing tons of gigs all over the country. If there are people grouping together anywhere, for any reason, we intend to make music at them.

# Zombie – If the entire band were involved in a zombie apocalypse, who would be eaten first and who would survive?

**Dan:** Me. I'd lie down in front of the first zombie I saw. What would be the point in trying to survive in a world without KFC and internet porn?





# MACMILLANFEST SECTION 10

IN AID OF RAISING MONEY FOR MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

OCK CITY MAIN HALL

# SIKIT

(SPECIAL FAN PICKED SETLIST)

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SHIELDS • BEASTS
THE FIVE HUNDRED
PATRIOT REBEL
BOTB WINNER

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# SEAFRET

SUSPECT ALIBI
ADELPHIA • UNKNOWN ERA
THE HARMONICS
THE MOCKING JAYS
SILVER WILSON
BOTB WINNER

ROCK CITY BASEMENT

# Stop Stoll

BAD TOUCH
EVA PLAYS DEAD
AUTUMN RUIN
LIBERTY LIES
THE DISTANT NORTH
SISTER SHOTGUN
PARASIGHT

ROCK CITY BASEMENT

# BLOOD YOUTH

JUST JAMES • LOCK & KEY
HARKEN • SPANGLE CORPS
ON THE OPEN ROAD
OUR SAVING DAY
CUT THE HEROICS
BOTB WINNER

INKY VAN DYKES (18+)

RED ROOMS

# CONTINENTS SPECIAL GUESTS TBA HELLO TOMORROW

MUTT
TEENAGE CASKET COMPANY
ENDEAVOUR • HIGH TIDES
YOU WANT FOX
BEYOND GRACE
NASTY HIGH

SPANKY VAN DYKES (18+)

TIGRESS
VETCHES
JOSEPH KNIGHT
KATE AUBURN
HARRIET • BILLIE
SMITH & GROVES
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09.11. MANCHESTER (UK) ASOLO OUT 2

10.11. GLASGOW (UK) GARAGE

12.11. HAARLEM (NL) PATRONAAT

13.11. HAMBURG (D) MARKTHALLE

14.11. BERLIN (D) ASTRA

15.11. PRAGUE (CZ) MEET FACTORY

16.11. BUDAPEST (HU) DÜRER KERT

17.11. WIEN (A) ARENA

18.11. BOLOGNA (I) ZONA ROVERI

19.11. MÜNCHEN (D) BACKSTAGE

20.11. PRATTELN (CH) 27

21.11. LYON (F) CCO

22.11. BARCELONA (E) RAZZMATAZZ

23.11. MADRID (E) SALA CATS

24.11. BORDEAUX (F) ROCK SCHOOL BARBEY

25.11. PARIS (F) MACHINE DU MOULIN ROUGE

26.11. STUTTGART (D) LKA

27.11. OBERHAUSEN (D) TURBINENHALLE 2

28.11. LEIPZIG (D) WERK 2

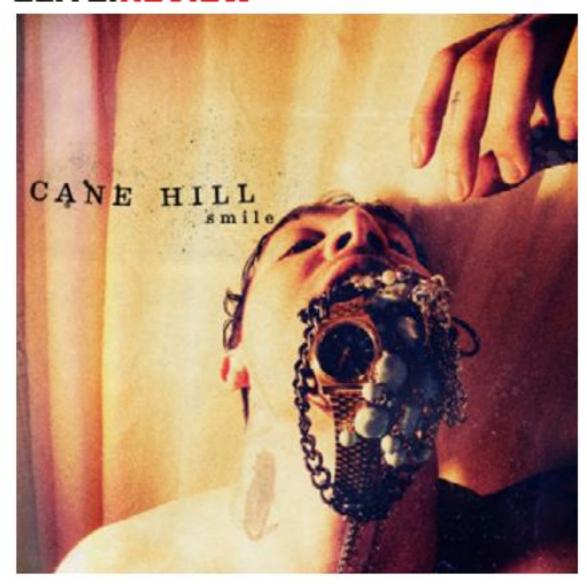
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#### **ELITE:REVIEW**



Cane Hill - Smile
Rise Records | Release Date: 15th July 2016

The hype machine has conjured up Cane Hill all the way from the US to the forefront of our attention with so many before them having the tag of the most exciting band on the planet having failed at the first hurdle. So has the machine created the right band this time? 'MGGDA' cuts a scathing figure from the outset with Elijah Witt delivering several different vocal styles at us. This is a big part of what makes this record so fresh and vibrant. The band wear their influences on their sleeves as its clear to see that the likes of Slipknot, Korn and Marilyn Manson are a big part of their sound to the industrial stomp of 'Ugly Idol Mannequin', the cheerleader gang chants of '(The New) Jesus'.

'Cream Pie' is dumb and juvenile with female moans dropped into the back of the song which follows a simplistic nature. Diverse is one of the words we would use to describe Smile especially with album highlight 'You're So Wonderful', a toned down nu metal ballad with one of the choruses of the year. This is fresh, exciting and downright impressive.

Words by Joshua Clarke





Crown The Empire - Retrograde
Rise Records | Release Date: 22nd July 2016

Rising rockers Crown The Empire are back with a vengeance, with their third studio album 'Retrograde'. Currently in the middle of Vans Warped Tour alongside other heavyweights such as Against The Current, Every Time I Die and Set It Off, Crown The Empire are just beginning to hit their musical peak, and are earning themselves acclaim from critics and fellow musicians alike!

'Retrograde' comprises of 11 tracks in total, and listeners will certainly be thrown by a slow, mysterious introductory piece cryptically named 'SK-68'. Fear not however, as from track 2 'Are You Coming With Me' you are soon provided with clinical guitar riffs, drum melodies and vocals that Crown The Empire are best known for. So what is so different about this particular album?

At the halfway stage, 'The Fear Is Real' again provides a very estranged melodic note to the album, and keeps listeners gripped to find out what else is on offer from this composition. With other noticeable tracks such as 'Aftermath', 'Hologram' and 'Weight Of The World', Crown The Empire have certainly delivered an accomplished collection of songs that will offer something different to fans and music lovers alike.

Words by Kristofer Billingham



#### **ELITE:REVIEW**



Thy Art Is Murder, Fit For An Autopsy and The Acacia Strain - The Depression Sessions EP

Nuclear Blast Entertainment Release Date: 12th August 2016

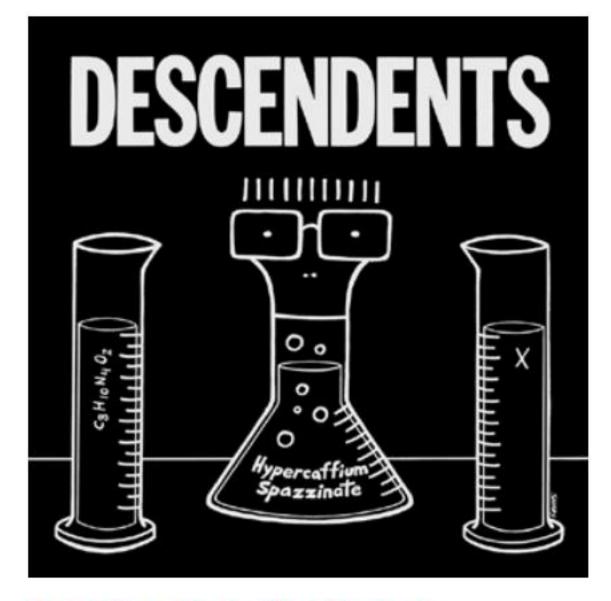
When three of the best deathcore bands in the 21st century, Thy Art Is Murder, Fit For An Autopsy and The Acacia Strain announced that they were collaborating for a mini-album, it got so many people excited to hear one of the most brutal albums of 2016.

'The Depression Sessions' includes one original songwritten in the style of the band's previous work and one cover by each band of a band that each band has been influenced by, whether that's lyrically or musically. Additionally, these album is equally as important because Thy Art's songs are the last recordings with vocalist CJ McMahon.

Admittedly, the songs that the three bands have produced aren't exactly what most would call "revolutionary". Thy Art's "They Will Know Another" could easily be a B-Side from "Holy War" (2015) which talks about how humans have destroyed our world, we're all going to die etcetera. The Acacia Strain's "Sensory Deprivation" reverts back to the classic TAS style; discussing the self-destruction brought on by depression and Fit For an Autopsy's contribution, 'Flatlining' is deathcore at its finest, and is undoubtedly the best song on the mini-album. The one that this album could have done differently is more experimentation because once you've listened to the songs a few times, there's not really an overwhelming urge to go back and listen, which is disappointing.

Words by Jack Simmonds





Descendents - Hypercaffium Spaziante

Epitaph Records | Release Date: 29th July 2016

Milo and co are back at it again! 12 years after their last release the hardcore punk veterans return with the oddly titled 'Hypercaffium Spazzinate'.

The immediacy of 'Victim of Me' has us smirking ear to ear hoping that the rest of the record is as infectious. The lyrical content details growing older, "Can't have no more juicy burgers, can't have no more greasy fries" engages Milo on 'No Fat Burger'. There's a blue collar rock n roll feel to 'Fighting Myself' and 'Beyond The Music', mid tempo and feel good vibes keep the record riding a great wave. Don't worry long time fans there's still the short sharp minute shy explosions that feel like knockout blows.

However this record does often have a repetitive feel to the music, especially in the midway point. Having formed in 1978 and many of their peers no longer here you wouldn't be wrong thinking that this wouldn't be up to the task but this is definitely worthy of your time and makes a claim for being the one of the best punk releases not just by a group of elder statesmen but of the past few years.

For all you punk purists we're sure you'll agree that this is close to perfection.

Words by Joshua Clarke





Hellions - Opera Oblivia UNFD | Release Date: 29th July 2016

It's always been hard to describe to people what makes a band like Sydney's rising stars, Hellions so appealing. Despite being reasonably accessible (yet undeniably experimental), Hellions aren't the type of band to be defined by a specific genre or sound . this band is a prediction of how music is going to go and that Hellions are the ones to watch – and a premonition of this musical direction is seen in their third album, 'Opera Oblivia.'

Right from the offset, the atmospheric '24' highlights this feeling of an escape, and ultimately sets the tone for the rest of the album. Fan favourite and hardcore fuelled track 'Quality of Life' is a testament to being yourself and living life the way that the listener wants to. This particular track takes you back to Hellions' roots, showcasing that heavy side of their arsenal that propelled them into the spotlights back in 2011. The production is crisp, hard-hitting, and complements the various musical elements in all the right places; from the Black Flag style intro of 'Nightliner Rhapsody ' that makes you want to stage-dive and finger-point to, to the Northlane style breakdowns that fills the listener with the overwhelming urge to bust a few shapes in your bedroom.

Hellions have managed to cement themselves in the hearts and minds of listeners on all four corners of the globe. The impressive vocals, introspective lyrics, and groove-laden direction are what I would consider a proper maturation for Hellions, and future material can't come quick enough.

Words by Jack Simmonds





Moose Blood - Blush Hopeless Records | Release Date: 5th August 2016

Canterbury emo gang Moose Blood are back with their follow up from their 2014 debut 'I'll Keep You In Mind From Time To Time' with 'Blush', the first record since being signed to Hopeless Records.

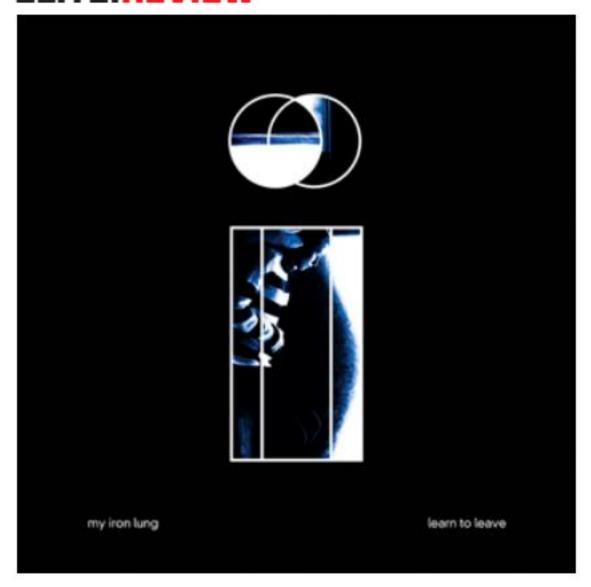
During the last 2 years Moose Blood have become somewhat of a cult like band in their scene. 'Blush' boasts 10 tracks of simplistic yet artsy one word titles and in those 10 tracks Moose Blood have taken their sound and tidied up some of the rough edges. 'Pastel' captivates you from the get go, setting the scene for 'Blush' to be a melody driven record. With tracks such as 'Knuckles and Honey' providing a pop punk feel that, contrasting tracks such as 'Shimmer' offer a sense of ambience and experimentation. Lyrically 'Blush' shows a change in mind set to a more optimistic view point on life breaking away from the connotations of loss in its predecessor.

However after the huge success following from 'I'll Keep You In Mind From Time To Time' the bar was set excruciatingly high for this follow up and unfortunately 'Blush' doesn't live up to it. But the fact of the matter is, it was never going to.

Words by Sam Taylor



#### **ELITE:REVIEW**



My Iron Lung - Learn To Leave

Pure Noise Records | Release Date: 5th August 2016

Two years after their first LP "Relief" American Post-Hardcore outfit My Iron Lung have released their second album "Learn To Leave" proving that they have grown up as a band and are most definitely not in for the banter.

Post-Hardcore guitars underlined by hectic, yet rhythmic drumming are topped up by emotional screams and emo melodies thus creating a multitude of different atmospheres following a very stringent sonic mood. This stringent line comes as both a blessing and a curse. On one hand it makes the entire album a very round and well-shaped listening experience, on the other hand it pretty much eradicates all of the highlights. This leads to the fact that there are very few parts of the album that actually stick with the listener and those who are intended to do so get lost in the complex songwriting which works with numerous time signatures and tempo changes "Learn To Leave" proves that My Iron Lung, whether you like them or not, should be taken seriously.

The band have managed to release an album that acts as a completed piece of art that is not easy to love due to its complexity and intricacy. Sometimes the lack of catchiness and highlights makes it challenging to listen to but once you learn to love it you love it even more.

Words by Niklas Benedum





Puppy - Vol. II Self Released | Release Date: 12th August 2016

After releasing their self-titled debut EP last year, London trio Puppy are about to drop their second Extended Play 'Vol. II' to continue their saga of mixing traditional hard rock and heavy metal with danceable Indie vibes and catchy melodies.

'Vol. II' sounds a tad heavier while still following a more mature, mellow and indie approach. This adds a very refreshing note to both of the well-known genres and is likely to convince fans of both genres alike.

Singer Jock Norton's voice brings back memories of old legends like The Smashing Pumpkins or Silversun Pickups and acts like a glue between the very heavy verses and levitating choruses. Keeping them each from bursting out like a shepherd keeping his herd together. Only occasionally the songs will break out into a guitar solo. Only to descend back into place. The courageous yet juvenile sound Puppy are displaying on this record becomes apparent in the slight lacks of ups and downs which are limited to the songs rather than the record itself but that doesn't mean that there is no potential for things like that in future releases.

The band has managed to create something rather unique amidst a huge pool of same-sounding goo but still has to further explore the possibilities and directions in which this sound could evolve into but this EP, despite its slight lack of distinctiveness has set the expectations high for what is yet to come.

Words by Niklas Benedum





The Color Morale - Desolate Devine

Fearless Records | Release Date: 19th August 2016

After almost 10 years of being a band, four studio albums and significant fanbase behind them, The Color Morale are about to release their fifth LP 'Desolate Devine'.

'Desolate Devine' sounds pretty much exactly like their last four records. Skilled clean vocals together with a mixture of melodic and rhythmic parts creating a dance between emotion and heaviness. It's good. Really good. But they've already got 44 songs like that. Nothing on this album sounds like anything the band has never done before. No new rhythms, no new melodies, no new anything.

The bitter taste of repetition runs through the entire album which is unfortunate considering the how well the band perform their craft with an incredible amount of skill.

Let's make it clear that 'Desolate Devine' is good. If you liked their last four albums you will most definitely like this one too. Filled with The Color Morale's well known catchy melodies and melodic riffs, but if you're expecting anything even remotely different to what they did in the past you will be deeply disappointed!

Words by Niklas Benedum





# E LUPRISING

#### **AS SIRENS FALL**

With a Download Festival appearance, an EP release & Kerrang TV airtime on their backs, West Yorkshire rock and rollers As Sirens Fall are continuing their killer year supporting electronic goth artist William Control on selected dates of his September UK tour. For fans of Young Guns, Sleeping With Sirens, You Me At Six and The Used, their debut EP 'The Hospital Party' is available now – give it a listen!



#### YOUTH MAN

With their critically acclaimed new EP 'Wax' recently released last month, and the launch of their new single 'Painted Blue, Birmingham noise-punk trio Youth Man are proving themselves as an unstoppable force to be reckoned with and it's very clear to understand why they have been labelled as one of the most exciting new bands in the UK.

If you've been living under a rock and you somehow haven't yet listened to them. Just do it and you'll understand.



#### **HUNDRED SUNS**

A new name with three familiar faces, Hundred Suns has a strong foundation made up of talented musicians Cory Brandan (Norma Jean), Chris LeMasters (ex Dead and Divine) and Ryan Leger (ex Every Time I Die). Having waited a long three years to launch what they've been up to, the band are ready to release their project on the world with their debut track 'Fractional'.

With a full album's worth of material being recorded and a full-scale to tour be announced, If there's anything to get excited about, It's this. Be prepared!



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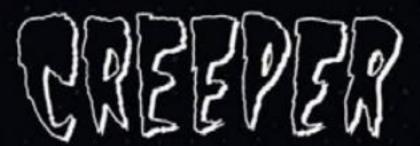
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#### **ALIVE IN LIGHTS**

Formed in late 2013, Kent based hard rock band Alive In Lights are ready to break out of the south and push their music to the rest of the UK! Taking influences from rock and metal favourites Issues, Memphis May Fire, Of Mice & Men and Slipknot, the band boast the creation of a set of music that they love to play, not just what conforms to popularity. With their new EP 'Brighter Days' due for release in September, be sure give it a listen and keep an eye out on what's to come from Alive In Lights as that continue to grow!

www.AliveInLights.com www.Facebook.com/AliveInLightsOfficial @AliveInLightsOfficial



#### ONE YEAR DEAD

Having only been formed little over a year, Sheffield based Six-piece Metalcore band, One Year Dead have already had the chance to play Sheffield's very own Tramlines festival, the band are ploughing through 2016 with string of upcoming shows and a weekend tour with MC Devvo. Be sure to check out their latest single 'Most Days'!

www.facebook.com/oneyeardead





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